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1 (MEETING COMMENCED)

2 TYRONE MCNEIL: Hey, good morning,
3 everyone. Thank you for coming back to day two of our 52nd
4 Annual General Assembly. And as we begin, I turn it over
5 to Debra Baker as one of our hosts to start us off in a
6 good way.

7 (OPENING PRAYER)

8 TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Thank you
9 so much, Debra, for starting us off in a good way. As I
10 mentioned at some point yesterday, when we're talking
11 about fish and the *Sparrow* case came up where I mentioned
12 we're going to do a moment of silence for the late Ron
13 Sparrow who led the charge that ultimately ended up in the
14 *Sparrow* decision, the Supreme Court of Canada, but also
15 appreciating, recognizing that we had losses in our
16 communities since our last meeting and particularly orange
17 shirt day. I'm thinking of all those losses of the
18 children that went to school and never came home. And in
19 many cases, the parents and family don't know where they
20 ended up and whatnot. So we will take that moment of
21 silence right now because we're doing it virtually. You
22 don't need to stand up unless you want to, but just
23 encouraging you to put those people, our relatives, our
24 community, our family, in our mind for those that are
25 gone. And as importantly for those that are here yet those

1 that have moved on and moved on, but many of us carry that
2 suffering, that hurt, that pain with us in some cases for
3 too long. I'm just encouraging everybody to send a prayer
4 out in your mind to relieve some of that burden of those
5 losses, to soften those edges, to ensure that they're the
6 memories that are never lost, but they're set aside
7 appropriately so that we can go on being healthy
8 physically, spiritually, and mentally. as well. We'll take
9 that moment of silence right now, please. Huychqa siem.

10 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you for that.
12 Just reminding everyone that when we do this it's
13 certainly not meant to tear the band aid off that wound of
14 that pain and suffering particularly for those that
15 recently lost someone, but it's more about paying respect
16 and homage to those that have gone. We know death is no
17 different than being born, but at times it hurts a little
18 bit more than others. So just encouraging everybody to
19 take care of for yourselves, not only here and now, but
20 today, because it is orange shirt day. I do see a number
21 of chiefs and delegates that signed on this morning
22 wearing your orange loud and proud.

23 Just a really brief explanation. You may
24 not see too well from where you are, but I've got an
25 orange shirt beaded button on my pocket here.

1 One of my earlier teachers always told me
2 when I'm doing something like this in front of a whole
3 bunch of chiefs, that it's important that I wear a shirt
4 and tie and slacks and whatnot. So it's pretty hard to
5 find an orange shirt that goes with your shirt and slacks.
6 So I kind of default to this button. So I hope folks don't
7 mind that, but just in recognition that it is an extremely
8 important day today.

9 I don't see too many new people on the list
10 today, so I'm not going to do a much very recap in terms
11 of business yesterday, we did pass a number of
12 resolutions. We found our way through this technology
13 world quite effectively. We only had a couple of glitches.
14 So knock on wood that today goes seamlessly like that as
15 well. The voting went pretty easy because the resolutions,
16 although we had some discussion, they passed unanimously.

17 Just encouraging everybody to track along
18 today. And if there's any -- if you have any suggestions
19 on how we might even improve this even more for you please
20 let us know. Cause we're all learning along the way.

21 And just a reminder that the Grand Chief
22 isn't with us today, we're fortunate to have him all day
23 yesterday, he drove back home last night, he's got his
24 regular dialysis this morning and then pretty well knocks
25 him out for the rest of the day. He may join us late in a

1 day if he feels like it, but that's certainly at his
2 options. So wishing him all the best in his healthy
3 recovery from the dialysis today.

4 So with that, our first agenda item is
5 Education during COVID. We have Debbie Jeffrey, the
6 executive director of FNEESC online, supported, I think,
7 supported by Thane Bonar. They're going to provide an
8 update on education issues particularly on COVID and you
9 can find material in your E-kit under the education file.
10 (Track 13)

11 **EDUCATION DURING COVID**

12 DEBBIE JEFFREY: The chiefs and I
13 certainly want to acknowledge the beautiful territory that
14 I'm speaking from today, which is the Musqueam, Squamish
15 and Tsleil Waututh. And I really appreciate the time that
16 you always give to education. We look forward to your
17 questions that you may have.

18 And so our presentation is going to be
19 based on materials that you have. It's a briefing note on
20 COVID funding. And the second item is the assignment of
21 personal education numbers, which I'll be speaking to. So
22 I'll ask Thane to speak to the first information item.

23 THANE BONAR: Good morning, everyone.
24 And thank you for having us join you this morning, and
25 also joining from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh

1 territory.

2 So I'm just going to talk a bit about you
3 know, the response to the pandemic from FNEESC and the FNSEA
4 the province and Canada, I'll start off with the restart
5 for public independent First Nation schools, the resources
6 that we've been providing, and then talk a bit about the
7 funding for school reopening.

8 So since the outset of the pandemic we've
9 been working to address the needs of First Nation students
10 and communities and schools. And while we haven't been
11 traveling to First Nations, we're providing our supports
12 virtually. As you can see I'm in our office, but we are
13 only partially in the office and we won't be returning to
14 communities until it's safe for staff and also until First
15 Nations' leadership of each community actually tells us
16 that they're ready for us to return.

17 So as part of that work, we've been working
18 very closely with the Ministry of Education on all of
19 their various planning groups around school closures and
20 reopening, with a focus on ensuring that individual First
21 Nations are appropriately engaged. And recognizing that
22 wasn't always the case with the school closure back in
23 March and April and with the reopening in June. And we've
24 heard that from First Nations. So trying to address that
25 and make sure it's going better this September.

1 And so on September 10th, as many of you
2 know, a public independent schools reopened and also many
3 First Nations schools reopened. So when that happened the
4 ministry put out plans related to plans and expectations
5 on school districts.

6 And we were able to ensure that there were
7 specific requirements for engagement with First Nations.
8 So our prime minister regularly consults regarding the
9 services being provided requirement to engage on
10 transportation needs. And in cases where First Nations
11 were remaining closed and not sending their students back
12 to the public system to jointly determine alternative
13 methods of instruction for those First Nations. We you
14 know, we remain concerned that not all school districts
15 are making that a priority. And so we've been advocating
16 for quite some time now for restart plans, school district
17 restart planets to be jointly signed off between First
18 Nations and boards of education. First Nations Leadership
19 Council has also formally made that request with a letter,
20 but so far that's still outstanding and is not the case.
21 So we know that the experience in some school districts
22 have been quite positive and First Nations are having
23 their needs met. And in other others, that is not the
24 case.

25 So moving on to First Nation schools. We

1 fully respect the authority of First Nations to make
2 decisions about how, you know, whether they reopen their
3 schools and how they deliver education to their
4 communities. And there's no obligation on First Nation
5 school -- unlike in the public system, there's no
6 obligation on First Nation schools to reopen. And FNEESC
7 and the FNSA will continue to support First Nations
8 regardless of what decisions they make, and their funding
9 will continue to flow as well.

10 So to support schools have developed a
11 number of resources, most recently reopening planning
12 template for schools and communities and a protocol for
13 the management of illnesses and confirmed cases in
14 communities. So in both of these you know, we developed in
15 consultation with the Ministry of Education and in keeping
16 with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health resources,
17 as well as discussions with the First Nations Health
18 Authority.

19 And we so far I'm having positive feedback
20 on those and making adjustments as things change and as we
21 hear about new needs. Throughout the pandemic, we've
22 carried out a number of environmental scans, the First
23 Nations schools and First Nations community. And we've
24 heard that there's been quite a wide range of experience
25 that they mentioned in terms of school districts, but also

1 a lot of diversity in terms of First Nations' plans
2 regarding your schools. So, you know, when we surveyed
3 them in late summer, the plan was about 8% of First Nation
4 school said they'd remain closed. 20% said there would be
5 a combination and the rest, so about 40% said, they'd be
6 fully reopening. We know that that's changing over time.
7 And the situation is quite fluid as communities respond to
8 cases that are arising.

9 Last I'll just talk a little bit about the
10 funding. There's been quite a few announcements around
11 funding for school reopening. So in terms of the public
12 system, you may have heard the Prime Minister Trudeau,
13 back in late August announced \$2 billion for education and
14 242 million of that came to BC, and this was allocated
15 directly to school districts. So when you're having
16 conversations with your school district, you should be
17 aware that they are receiving that funding proportionate
18 to the number of students that they have to respond to the
19 pandemic and to reopening safely.

20 We're concerned that First Nations students
21 won't be a priority for that. And so we advocated for and
22 were successful in getting some specific reporting
23 requirements for school districts in relation to engaging
24 the students that will be -- you're seeing those reports
25 in November. So it'll be interested to see if school

1 districts are taking that seriously.

2 In terms of First Nation schools in June,
3 FNEESC and FNSA released \$2 million to First Nation schools
4 is to support summer learning, recognizing that with the
5 change of the school year, there is any percent -- some
6 First Nations are going to be taking some additional
7 measures during the summer. We also, it should be in
8 August, 1.5 million to First Nation schools in restart
9 grants to support their reopening. And we also surveyed
10 First Nations to inform a proposal to the First Nations
11 Inuit health branch headquarters for proposal for further
12 funding for opening. We're still in discussions about
13 that. So details will be coming soon, but additional
14 resources.

15 There back in July, the province invested
16 45.6 million into the public system. And in keeping with
17 the BC tripartite education agreement, which says that any
18 funding that goes into the public system will also be put
19 into the First Nations school system. That led to another
20 about half a million dollars that was distributed to First
21 Nations schools. And in August, it's also announced \$112
22 million for First Nation schools across the country.
23 Details on BC's allocation of that money is still being
24 sorted out. So there will be more information.

25 I mean, FNEESC's recommendation that this

1 funding should be available to support all students in
2 keeping with BCG where First Nation students, regardless
3 of where they're studying, should be supported. And First
4 Nations Leadership Council has supported this
5 recommendation and recently sent a letter to ISC in that
6 regard as well.

7 So there are still those outstanding
8 funding pots that discussions are underway, and we'll have
9 additional information soon.

10 Debbie or Connor, is there anything that I
11 missed that you think we should add?

12 DEBBIE JEFFREY: The only piece that I
13 would add on that, Thane, is that the Leadership Council
14 sent a letter recommending equitable distribution of the
15 funding, the new money that's coming available for COVID.
16 And there is a meeting scheduled in October next month to
17 discuss the letter and the funding allocations with
18 leadership.

19 So we'll move on to the next section. I'm
20 going to be talking about the resolution that's in your
21 kit. It's in relation to the minister's new legislation
22 that enables him to assign a personal education number to
23 all children at birth in British Columbia.

24 We were not adequately consulted on this.
25 We expressed, on numerous occasions, our concern and that

1 the collection of First Nations data requires consent of
2 First Nations. And we strongly urged the province that
3 consultations with First Nations needed to happen. And so
4 we were very dismayed to find out that legislation was
5 introduced in February of this year, that gives the
6 minister authority to assign personal education numbers at
7 birth.

8 So one of those instances, Leadership
9 Council representatives were present and expressed concern
10 about the minister having authority to just assign a nine-
11 digit number to babies in British Columbia, including
12 First Nations. We feel he's exceeded his authority and we
13 need to address that.

14 We feel that the collection of this data
15 could lead to further streaming of First Nation students
16 in the public system. The ministry currently collects a
17 lot of data on Indigenous students and doesn't really use
18 that information effectively despite our best efforts to
19 push the province in that direction. It also -- he's
20 assigning a personal education number, a PEN number to
21 students who aren't in the public system. We have 5,000
22 students in First Nation schools. Some of them use the PEN
23 number and some don't. So he would then be able to track
24 all students, whether they're in public schools or not.
25 And it was unclear to us how this data would be used in

1 conjunction with other data sources from other ministries.
2 And so we are strongly urging the minister not to exercise
3 this authority until adequate consultations with First
4 Nations has been undertaken and that our consent is given.

5 So in the resolution, you will see that
6 we're asking the Union to call on the minister to refrain
7 from exercising the new authority under the amended *School*
8 *Act* regarding the PEN number. And that we're asking that
9 meaningful consultations and collaborations with First
10 Nations and FNEESC happen to better identify the
11 implications of assigning PENS to any child resident in
12 BC, including from birth. And we also want to have
13 conversations about recommendations on how to align the
14 *School Act* and related policies regarding PENS with the UN
15 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as
16 required, but the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous*
17 *Peoples Act*. And that, of course, we would come back to
18 report on these conversations.

19 So we're very concerned about this. I got a
20 call an hour before this legislation was being introduced.
21 So I do think the ministry knew they were offside and
22 chose to do it in any way. So that was very concerning to
23 us. And so we feel these resolutions from our three
24 organizations will assist in the conversation and ensure
25 that the minister doesn't exercise this authority until

1 | those consultations have been undertaken.

2 | The last thing that I wanted to report on
3 | was our response to COVID has been informed by joint
4 | meetings of the full FNSA board and the FNEESC executive.
5 | Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, both boards have
6 | been meeting every two weeks throughout March through
7 | beginning of July, we met more -- less frequently over the
8 | summer, but we are meeting frequently. Again, we have a
9 | meeting, a joint meeting coming up next week. So the
10 | response to COVID has been informed by the direction of
11 | both the First Nation schools association board and the
12 | FNEESC executive. And I'm pleased to report the
13 | relationship is incredibly positive. It's collaborative
14 | and we're moving forward in the best interests of
15 | students. So we just wanted to offer that piece and I'll
16 | turn it over to you, Mr. Chair, to handle how we want to
17 | approach any questions or comments folks may have.

18 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks, Deb. Just
19 | before opening up to the chiefs for questions and
20 | comments, just adding a little bit. Deb and Thane pretty
21 | well sugar-coated our relation with Ministry of Education.
22 | Right now, it's hugely problematic. You're aware that the
23 | BC Tripartite Education Agreement that you endorsed us to
24 | sign a few years ago has provisions in there that is not
25 | even implemented yet. So in the case of this pending

1 piece, they did a presentation to, I can't remember if it
2 was our executive or our board and we, you know, we kicked
3 back immediately and they go, no, we're just thinking
4 about it. It's -- we don't know if we're doing it. We're
5 only thinking about it. And then less than two weeks
6 later, we get notified that they have started that
7 legislative process as you put it in place. Then they come
8 back and say, well, we have the authority to do it, but we
9 may not demonstrate that authority.

10 So it's a real gamesmanship by the
11 ministry, by the minister and deputy minister in
12 particular. And it's important for chiefs to know that
13 although FNEESC has quite a bit of wherewithal we're really
14 up against a wall with this minister and with this deputy
15 minister. It's, it's hugely challenging. And we don't have
16 time to do a deep dive into it, but just looking for your
17 support of the resolution, cause we're going need your
18 political support to even make small advances under this
19 current leadership within the ministry, even with DRIPA,
20 there is still -- it's mind boggling that we're having
21 struggles that we currently are, particularly on them
22 implementing things that they signed and agreed to do two
23 years ago.

24 So with that, any questions or comments
25 from chiefs and delegates? You need to put up your hand or

1 speak up?

2 GREG LOUIE: Hey, Mr. Chair, it is Greg
3 Louie from Ahousaht.

4 TYRONE MCNEIL: Hi Greg. Go ahead.

5 GREG LOUIE: Good morning. Thanks to
6 you, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the opening prayer. Thanks
7 to everybody that's chiming in today and supporting the
8 orange shirt day. And I think we should find a dress shirt
9 for you, thank you, Ty, instead of the button, but that
10 button works.

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: I looked for a few
12 years, Greg, I could use some help on the chair.

13 GREG LOUIE: Good to see you, Deb and
14 Thane. Thank you both for your report. I'm not sure who
15 will answer this, Deb, but I'll throw it out to either you
16 or Thane. It is regarding nominal role where there is no
17 comments about nominal role.

18 I'm just curious if a school is closed do
19 they still submit 1701s today? Or are they doing 1701
20 still? And or are they submitting their nominal role? And
21 if a school is closed will a school or a community, a
22 nation still continue to receive their funding for their
23 school? Is there any -- yeah, so I don't want to use the
24 word penalized, but I'll use it anyway or I'll use the
25 word holdback. Is there any holdbacks? But you know, I

1 know we want to want to continue to support our First
2 Nation schools. And looking forward to next year, Deb or
3 Thane, with nominal role, have you looked to next year's
4 nominal role? What kind of impact that will have, or will
5 there be any impact on funding and how well a funding flow
6 through to a First Nation school or a First Nations
7 community whose school was closed this year and what kind
8 of effect will that have on nominal role next year?

9 Those are my questions, Mr. Chair to Deb or
10 Thane. Thank you and good to see you both.

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks, Greg. Deb.

12 DEBBIE JEFFREY: Yep. Thank you for
13 your question, Greg. There is no impact on your funding.
14 Most schools who -- they didn't actually close, they
15 suspended classes and most of the First Nations schools
16 had continuous learning. So funding will remain in place.
17 In our conversations with ISC, the funding will flow with
18 no interruptions. And with respect to conversations on the
19 distribution of the new money that -- BC's portion of 112,
20 that was earmarked for First Nation schools. That is going
21 to be a topic of discussion for the Leadership Council
22 meeting coming up next month.

23 So we have received repeated assurances
24 from ISC. There'll be no interruptions to funding to First
25 Nation schools.

1 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukpi7 Webster, Chief
2 Janet, are you there?

3 JANET WEBSTER: Hello?

4 TYRONE MCNEIL: Yeah, we can hear you.

5 JANET WEBSTER: Hello? Yeah. I just
6 wanted to say that I don't agree. I didn't hear about the
7 1701 yet regarding if we have to continue to sign it or
8 fill it out if we're closed. And the other thing, I don't
9 agree with the Act where they give a PEN number when we
10 already have a status number already. And if they're going
11 to do that to the First Nation students, are they going to
12 do that to all students throughout all schools to give
13 them a PEN number when they're born? So those are some of
14 the questions that I have right now. Thank you.

15 Kukstemc. Deb.

16 DEBBIE JEFFREY: Sorry, Greg, I didn't
17 answer the 1701, my apologies.

18 The 1701 is under discussion with ISC now
19 because we have a number of First Nations who are in
20 dispute with their respective school districts. And so we
21 have some school districts who are adding -- doesn't agree
22 with. So we really want to ensure that there is a nominal
23 role and that First Nations get to determine who is on the
24 nominal role, not school districts. So that is a work in
25 progress for sure. But under our new tripartite agreement,

1 we've agreed that we would be undertaking a joint
2 verification process for nominal role. And there have been
3 some webinars that have been taking place to support those
4 conversations as well.

5 And so regarding the, Chief Webster, your
6 question on those numbers being assigned, the minister's
7 proposing to assign all students at birth, including First
8 Nations students. So that's our concern in terms of the
9 minister exceeding his authority to include our kids when
10 he has no authority to do so and he hasn't gotten our
11 consent. I believe ISC is going to be coming out soon with
12 important information on extension to timelines and
13 deadlines on some of these because of the complexities
14 related to the pandemic.

15 TYRONE MCNEIL: Any questions or
16 comments? Greg, did you have a follow up?

17 GREG LOUIE: No, I'm just saying thank
18 you to Deb. Thank you, Deb, for answering now the second
19 part of the question. Thank you.

20 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any other
21 questions or comments? I see Erralyn Thomas, your hands
22 up, proxy.

23 ERRALYN JOSEPH: Good morning, everybody
24 Erralyn Joseph on behalf of -- proxy for Snuneymuxw First
25 Nation, Huy tseep q'u to everybody for being here today

1 and thank you, Tyrone, for chairing our meeting.

2 I think that's our understanding, as well.
3 We have a telephone call meeting with ISC yesterday and
4 discussing these very issues that you know and dealing
5 with the COVID and registration and the function of our
6 school during these times, will our funding be impacted,
7 and that's what we're told, as well, that it won't. And
8 that in fact, the deadline -- the September 30th
9 enrollment date will be extended. That's exactly what they
10 told us, but we're going through, I guess, conversations
11 at the 11th hour with the school district on how we will
12 submit 1701 or nominal roll.

13 So I appreciate the information from the
14 panelists on this, and I look forward to our discussion.
15 Hopefully, I can reach out with you after this meeting.
16 Thank you.

17 TYRONE MCNEIL: Huy tseep q'u. Thank
18 you, Erralyn. And you can contact Deb or FNEESC anytime.
19 Any other questions or comments? Not seeing or hearing
20 any, are we ready to go to the resolution? Not seeing or
21 hearing anyone disagree, I'll draw your attention to
22 resolution 2020-26, REGARDING ALIGNMENT OF THE SCHOOL ACT
23 WITH THE UN DECLARATION AND CONTESTING THE ASSIGNMENT OF
24 PERSONAL EDUCATION NUMBERS TO CHILDREN IN BC FROM BIRTH.

25 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs

1 in Assembly fully support the First
2 Nation's Education Steering Committees'
3 opposition to the unexpected and abrupt
4 amendments to the *School Act*, as well as
5 the Ministry of Education's failure to
6 adequately consult BC First Nations and
7 address concerns about how the assignment
8 of personal education numbers, (PENS) to
9 any child that is a BC resident, including
10 from birth, may negatively impact
11 Indigenous learners; and
12 Therefore it further be resolved the UBCIC
13 Chiefs in Assembly call upon the Minister
14 of Education to:
15 A) refrain from exercising the new
16 authority under the amended *School Act*
17 regarding the assignment of personal
18 education numbers to any child resident in
19 BC; and
20 B) engage in a meaningful consultation and
21 collaboration with First Nations and the
22 First Nations Education Steering Committee
23 to:
24 1. identified the implications of assigning
25 PENS to any child resident in BC, including

1 from birth; and
2 2. make recommendations on how to align
3 the *School Act* and related policies
4 regarding PEN with the United Nations
5 Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples
6 as required by the *Declaration on Rights of*
7 *Indigenous Peoples Act*; and
8 Therefore it finally be resolved FNESC will
9 regularly report back to the UBCIC Chief's
10 Council, honest discussions, and work with
11 Minister of Education to address concerns
12 and issues related to the assignment of
13 PENS to children in British Columbia.
14 Looking for a mover and seconder, please.
15 JANET WEBSTER: I so move. Chief
16 Janet.
17 PAUL SAM: Paul Sam, Tsartlip.
18 TYRONE MCNEIL: Any other discussion?
19 Janet, I'm not sure if your - Kukpi7 Webster, I'm not sure
20 if your hand up is a new one or an old one in the
21 participant list.
22 JANET WEBSTER: No, I'm not putting my
23 hand up.
24 TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay. You can take it
25 down from your end then. Any other discussion? Question

1 has been called .Any opposition to the resolution? Are
2 there any abstentions to the resolution? Seeing and
3 hearing neither this resolution is carried. Thank you.

4 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

5 TYRONE MCNEIL: You finished a little
6 bit ahead of time, Deb, do you have any concluding
7 remarks, any other information you'd like to pass on
8 briefly?

9 DEBBIE JEFFREY: Yeah, so I just really
10 want to express appreciation to the chiefs for their
11 priority they put on education and our kids. And we will
12 be coming back. There's lots of really interesting and
13 exciting things that we're working on and trying to
14 advance. And we really want to seek direction from
15 leadership on how to proceed on a number of things, but we
16 really appreciated the support today. Thank you.

17 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks, Deb. Thanks
18 Thane. I'll put one more plugin for FNEESC for chiefs so
19 you're not aware. FNEESC staff have done tremendous amount
20 of work on writing procedures around COVID. We were in
21 respect to policies, practices, and processes. We've made
22 those available to all of the schools. We're working with
23 FNSA to do that, but I find that a lot of them are really
24 good for the -- like the band office and other
25 institutions as well. So if you have a school in your

1 community to take a look at it, if you don't reach out to
2 us and we'll make those available to you, because it is
3 really top-notch work that the staff has done on that.

4 So with that, we're going to move on to
5 children and families inviting Kukpi7 Judy, Cheryl Casimer
6 Regional Chief Teegee Kukpi7 Christian and Karen Isaac to
7 come up on deck Kukpi7 Wilson, Cheryl and regional chief
8 will present a deck with an updated children and families,
9 specifically the work of the tripartite working group.
10 Kukpi7 Christian will speak to his work at the national
11 AFN level, Karen Isaac will provide an update on BCACCS
12 all background material can be found in the children and
13 families section of your digital kit, but we have three
14 resolutions to follow the presentations.

15 (Track 14)

16 **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

17 JUDY WILSON: [Native language]. Kukpi7
18 Judy Wilson. Thank you for the moment of silence today for
19 orange shirt day. I think it resonates with many of our
20 children and our families and our nations not just in BC,
21 but across Canada. September 30th signifies the time of
22 year Indigenous children are historically taken from their
23 homes to residential schools. And many of us remember the
24 residential school legacy and even with the federal
25 government apology we're still working on years and years

1 of healing. And many of the communities are coming
2 together and the schools to do projects around
3 reconciliation and around the commemoration of the
4 residential school survivors and their loved ones. So you
5 can see some of the community postings of videos on
6 [www.orange shirt, date.org](http://www.orange-shirt.com). if you want to check out some
7 of the community postings and some of the children and
8 some of the stories and some of the commemoration to that.

9 So I think it's really important. So thanks
10 for starting us off that way, Ty.

11 And I wanted to comment on the recent
12 death, unfortunately, a tragic one of the First Nations
13 youth in care that happened in the lower mainland here and
14 the lives of so many children and youth in care who are
15 lost to the colonial child welfare system and recalling
16 those province-wide meetings we had where our chiefs
17 mandated and directed to reform the child welfare system
18 and that it wasn't good enough that they made incremental
19 changes that the overall system had to change because that
20 was the importance of First Nation self-determination and
21 reclaiming over children and families, our own
22 jurisdiction, according to our own laws in ways of caring
23 for our children and families.

24 So after Bill C-92 passed, we're now seeing
25 many of the nation's stand up their jurisdiction and stand

1 up their own laws and stand up their own ways that they
2 care for the children and the families. Too long it was
3 given over to the government models that were punitive in
4 nature and broke up families and continued that systematic
5 breakdown of our families. So we have the real work we're
6 doing now with our nations to bring our children home.

7 You can put on the second slide now. We
8 have a slide deck. So this -- or actually, sorry, this
9 should be the first slide.

10 Next slide. Okay. You're right. Okay.

11 So we broke it up into a bit of the slide
12 decks there. So I'll be presenting with Cheryl Casimer
13 from First Nations Summit and Regional Chief Teegee from
14 BC Assembly of First Nations and Kukpi7 Wayne Christian
15 has the Assembly of First Nations committee information.
16 And we do have an appeal for intervention for Kiko
17 Montilla at the end, which I'll do so.

18 The specific issues regarding COVID-19
19 where advocacy remains active, include access to
20 prevention and respite services for children and families
21 in need, particularly children and youth with special
22 needs. Youth and young adults who are currently in care
23 and who recently aged out in their high-risk youth. Access
24 between children and care and our families during the
25 pandemic, it was critically important and extensions of

1 service changes within the Ministry Child and Family
2 Development. Education restart and support available for
3 families and communities for the 2021 academic year in
4 ongoing implementation of an act respecting First Nations,
5 Inuit and Métis youth and children. So that's the advocacy
6 that's active right now.

7 There has been appointments to the
8 technical working group on practice, include Mary Teegee
9 from the Carrier Sekani family services and Jennifer Lewis
10 from the Okanagan Nation Alliance, and also and also Bill
11 Yoachim from the Kwumut Lelum Child and Family Services.
12 And appointments to the technical working group on fiscal
13 relations include Yvonne Hare from Secwepemc Child and
14 Family Services and Cindy Blackstock from First Nations
15 Caring Society. So those are the announcements. And
16 Darlene Hall from [indiscernible 5:10] and Cheryl's
17 Casimer is going to continue on with this slide deck and
18 same with Regional Chief Teegee. So I'll turn it over to
19 Cheryl now.

20 CHERYL CASIMER: Thank you, Kukpi7
21 Wilson. Can you guys hear me? Perfect. Can you see me?
22 It's a bit dark in here. I'm trying to adjust the
23 lighting. I haven't quite mastered it yet. Good morning,
24 everyone. I'd like to start off by acknowledging Debra for
25 the beautiful song recognizing residential school

1 survivors and victims. And to just let you know that I'm
2 calling into you today from el casco territory here in
3 Burns Lake.

4 I'm going to be covering a bit around
5 Jordan's Principle and Bill 22 amendments. So at the TWG,
6 the tripartite level that's the Leadership Council, Canada
7 and British Columbia. We're working to support the
8 development of a tripartite working group on Jordan's
9 Principle. That would include relevant partners from
10 health, education and early learning.

11 As of yesterday ISC released expressions of
12 interest for Jordan's Principle enhanced service
13 coordination model in BC to support access to Jordan's
14 Principle in our communities.

15 The call-out has a couple of components,
16 Jordan's Principle service coordinators who will be based
17 in First Nation communities to assist First Nation
18 children and families with case management intake,
19 assessment and coordination to navigate the full range of
20 federal and provincial health, social and education
21 services, and supports to address your needs, including
22 preparing and submitting Jordan's Principle applications
23 on your behalf. The closing date for that is October 19th.

24 And secondly, Jordan's Principle service
25 coordination hubs. Those are to act as an ongoing resource

1 for service coordinators in British Columbia, as they
2 navigate the full range of health, social and education
3 services and supports... Is the deck up? Thanks. For
4 children and families. And the service is going to include
5 onboard training, provision of tools, facilitating the
6 sharing of best practices and data collection and
7 analysis. And the closing date for that is October 26.

8 So the expression of interest will be
9 shared in the chat, and they will also be sent out via our
10 technical staff.

11 Staying on this slide, going into Bill 22
12 amendments to the *Mental Health Act*. In June the province
13 tabled Bill 22 amendments to the *Mental Health Act*, which
14 would allow for doctors to involuntarily detain youth in the
15 hospital following an overdose.

16 It's interesting to note that the *Mental*
17 *Health Act* is a piece of legislation from the 1960s and
18 has had very little amendments since that time. And under
19 that Act, there are no conditions or there's nothing in
20 there that treats a child or a youth any differently than
21 an adult.

22 So the Leadership Council, among many of
23 our other partners, we raised some significant concerns
24 around these amendments. We went on record sending letters
25 to the respective ministries. Specific concerns included

1 the lack of engagement, first of all, on the Bill. The
2 lack of legal protection for the rights of youth and the
3 lack of community-based services.

4 We are concerned that if they went about
5 implementing this Bill and the amendments to the Bill,
6 that when you detain a youth for the period of time that
7 they were proposing and they released the youth we said,
8 well, where are the youth going to go? Communities do not
9 have the capacity nor the resources to be able to provide
10 the level of outreach or the -- I'm sorry, the level of
11 outpatient care that would be required to support young
12 people in dealing with potential addictions. And so until
13 such time that communities are readily resourced there's
14 no way that we would consider supporting anything like
15 this. That was just one of the concerns. There's a whole
16 range of concerns related to this Bill.

17 The chief coroner also raised concerns that
18 the Bill would actually increase overdose deaths in youth.

19 So we recognize that there needs to be
20 serious and significant measures taken to address the
21 opioid crisis in BC. We know that there are more deaths
22 related to the opioid crisis than there are deaths related
23 to the pandemic, and unfortunately, a large number of
24 those opioid overdose deaths are Indigenous peoples.

25 So when we're talking about our youth, we

1 need to be at the table though, in any of those
2 discussions. We've also had a discussion with the RCY,
3 Jennifer Charlesworth. We had a Leadership Council session
4 with her, I believe on September 22nd. And she's on record
5 expressing some concerns and opposing the amendments made
6 to the Act itself. She has concerns about some of the
7 statistics around the youth who were to be being detained
8 under the *Mental Health Act* at least, or sorry, in the
9 last 10 years involuntary detentions of youth under this
10 Act increased my 162%. There was no evidence of culturally
11 safe or considerate care for Indigenous youth.
12 Of course there are numerous other issues.

13 So we're going to continue to monitor the
14 work that is happening on Bill 22. We expect it's going to
15 be brought forward again possibly by a new government. And
16 we're also looking at how this Act may be amended to align
17 with the *Declaration Act*.

18 We also are at a position where we could
19 call for significant changes to the Act as a Leadership
20 Council and chiefs in the province. And I think that
21 that's something that we should consider doing. And before
22 I turn it over to Regional Chief I just quickly wanted to
23 update you on a situation that we're all too familiar
24 with, and that has to do with the Riley Saunders case. And
25 I know that it's not on this slide, but I think that it's

1 important to note that we did have a conference call with
2 representatives from the ministry. They shared with us,
3 not in detail, but they shared with us some information in
4 terms of how they're making some changes internally to
5 make sure that what happened with the Riley Saunders
6 situation doesn't happen again in the future.

7 So they talked about tightening up their
8 fiscal - what's the term - to make sure that somebody
9 can't go in there and manipulate writing checks and having
10 things approved, such as what Riley Saunders did in order
11 to take advantage of the number of youth that he did by
12 opening up joint bank accounts with them and taking all of
13 their money from them that was supposed to go towards
14 their wellbeing and their care. And so they did share with
15 us some changes that are being made.

16 Unfortunately, we have occurred whether
17 he's even been found yet because it was in the news a
18 while ago that he's on the run. And we actually got a tip
19 that he's in Manitoba somewhere. And we did pass that tip
20 on to the RCMP. We've not yet heard anything back. The tip
21 came to me from a stranger on messenger who actually works
22 at a golf course that he says he believes Saunders is
23 working at under a different name. The individual reached
24 out to me the other day to say, is anything even happening
25 about this guy? Because I just saw him again the other

1 day, and he's just continuing to work at this golf course.

2 So we certainly need to follow up and find
3 out. I know that even if they did find him and present him
4 with the papers that they were trying to do they probably
5 wouldn't share that with us. But in any event, we still
6 believe that justice needs to happen. Of all of the youth
7 that he took advantage of the majority were Indigenous
8 youth.

9 And I know that the ministry has come up
10 with a compensation package. We know that in some
11 instances it will be significant, but unfortunately, a
12 couple of the youth that were a part of his scam have
13 since passed on. And so they'll never see the justice that
14 they deserve. So it really is still an outstanding issue
15 and it's still is a concerning issue.

16 So I just wanted to provide that bit of an
17 update to just let you know that we're not taking our eye
18 off of that issue. We are continuing to follow up on it to
19 make sure that Riley Saunders is brought to justice.

20 So now I'll turn it over to my colleague
21 regional chief to do the engagement session. Thank you.

22 TERRY TEEGEE: [Native language].
23 Chiefs, hereditary chiefs, leadership, colleagues staff.
24 First of all, I just wanted to acknowledge the territory
25 that I'm on. I'm near Prince George and Lheidli T'enneh at

1 our head office at the BCAFN.

2 And so with the next slide, if I get the
3 next slide on engagement. So over the past several months,
4 we have been looking at how best we can maintain the
5 momentum that we've had in regard to implementation of
6 Bill C-92, despite the fact that we can't meet each other
7 physically because of the, the COVID pandemic. This month,
8 the last couple of weeks September 15th, we hosted our
9 first child and families quarterly town hall session in
10 partnership with the Indigenous Service Canada and the
11 province of British Columbia.

12 This was in response to a request from many
13 of our First Nations communities to have a venue to engage
14 directly with the province and Canada on child and family
15 issues. As it was the first session it was focused on
16 generally a broad update of where we come in terms of Bill
17 C-92. There will be future sessions that will be focused
18 on more specific topics of interest and then priority to
19 your communities.

20 The next session will be planned for
21 December. And once the date is solidified, we'll certainly
22 share that information on the chief council's email list
23 and get the word out so you can attend that next town hall
24 session.

25 The same day on September 15th, we also

1 hosted a reorientation meeting on Bill C-92 on the *Federal*
2 *Act* and recognized that there needs to be an ongoing
3 information sharing and resources shared on the
4 implementation of the Act. Both of the sessions were well
5 attended and well received and recorded for those that
6 weren't able to attend. I believe that that is up on
7 YouTube.

8 The links to the sessions will be shared in
9 the chat, I believe Don will share them. And if there are
10 any other questions you can reach out to our technical
11 staff, our technical lead on behalf of the FNLC is Don
12 Johnson.

13 Next slide.

14 So we also had a survey that was sent out
15 and recognizing we may not be able to come together in
16 person for quite some time, as we navigate through this
17 pandemic. Last month there was a distribution of a survey
18 on engagement and priorities regarding the implementation
19 of the *Federal Act* to First Nations leadership and
20 communities across British Columbia.

21 Current survey results have identified
22 several priority areas for engagement, including funding
23 for the exercise of your jurisdiction. Development and
24 codification of Indigenous laws. Capacity development. The
25 survey will remain open until the end of day today. The

1 link is in the chat if you have not yet responded.

2 So, with that I certainly appreciate the
3 time for presenting today and also to my fellow colleagues
4 on the First Nations Leadership Council on this matter
5 Cheryl Casimer from the Summit and a Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
6 from the UBCIC, and also a representative on behalf of the
7 BCAFN on the national discussion is Kukpi7 Wayne Christian
8 and thank for thankful for his expertise on representing
9 British Columbia on this matter.

10 And I see everybody has orange shirt,
11 orange shirt day today, and it's good to see that you
12 know, we're remembering all of those that went to
13 residential school. Including you know, I have older
14 siblings and went to residential school up here in British
15 Columbia at Lejac Residential School, remembering those
16 that attended those schools and also those that didn't
17 make it home.

18 In many respects, this is very similar to
19 what had happened during residential school period is that
20 many of our children are in care, and this is the reason
21 that we're doing this very important work on child and
22 family services and making sure that they get proper
23 representation.

24 So with that I pass it on to Kukpi7 Wayne
25 Christian to give an update on a national discussion.

1 Thank you, Tyrone. Mussi cho.

2 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Regional
3 Chief, just before going to Kukpi7, everybody should see
4 the information and links that Don has posted on the chat
5 feature, but we do have a couple of chiefs that are called
6 in on phone only. So perhaps Don could email those
7 documents and links directly to those two chiefs.

8 Kukpi7 Wayne.

9 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: [Native language].
10 Kukstemc, Tyrone. And I want to thank Debra for the song
11 this morning. It was good. I want to say that during the
12 moment of silence we actually had an elder pass here that
13 was one of the founding members of the Union of BC Indian
14 Chiefs, Tommy Raines, they are burying him tomorrow. So
15 remembering him and that picture behind me. Well, can't
16 see it by my grandchildren behind me and behind them is a
17 picture of the actual first Union meeting. So I just want
18 to thank you for that opportunity to not way honour him.
19 During COVID, as you know burials are very problematic in
20 terms of exposure to the COVID process.

21 Do we have the slide up?

22 What I'm going to do is just give you a
23 brief overview of what's happening at the national level
24 in relation to the chief's committee on the child and
25 family services self-Determination. We have been meeting

1 virtual meetings and going through a process. The most
2 prominent things is that those resolutions that were
3 passed at the AFN and then through the BCAFN, I'm sitting
4 now as a representative. And so we've been meeting on a
5 quarterly basis.

6 A protocol was signed between Indigenous
7 Services Canada, and the AFN around implementation of C-
8 92. And I think that what you're seeing right now, the
9 survey monkey is really important in terms of actual
10 engagement priorities that the regional chief has
11 mentioned and Don, our technical person, has put up
12 through the chat and they're sent out. If you get that
13 opportunity go through it and identify what you see as a
14 priority for your community in relation to implementation
15 of C-92.

16 And I think we have to keep in mind that
17 this is federal legislation, very similar to the *Indian*
18 *Act*. As an example, the *Indian Act* has statutory funding.
19 I think the annual amount is about 10 billion per year.
20 And this is a federal piece of legislation that has no
21 statutory funding and we have to push, we've been pushing
22 really hard for actual statutory funding for the
23 implementation of the SOC. That's one of the big issues
24 that's on the table nationally.

25 And so it's really grounded in the concept

1 of nation-based, that the inherent jurisdiction rests with
2 our communities, rests with the nations and that the
3 decisions are made in the communities and close to home in
4 relation to children. And those systems we have for
5 looking after ourselves have always been grounded in our
6 laws. And so that's what's important.

7 So I really believe that at this point, I
8 think the priority is really looking at funding,
9 development of regulations and pathways for jurisdiction.
10 And I think that that's kind of what's happening at the
11 national level.

12 And I have been sending out, via the BCAFN
13 all the updates. Because when I attend meetings, I draft
14 notes and I send those out. Then they have formal notes
15 come out, just to keep the chiefs updated. And I know that
16 it might be problematic because we're inundated today with
17 a lot of emails and virtual meetings, et cetera. We always
18 don't get to it.

19 So what I've been trying to do, as much as
20 possible, is keep the chiefs updated in terms of what's
21 going on with this file nationally.

22 The most current information is really
23 around the establishment of a -- under the protocol
24 working group, and we'll be bringing resolutions forward
25 at the assembly in November regarding political

1 appointments to that process, as well as technical
2 appointments to the process.

3 So the regional chief and I have had a
4 discussion, and we're going to actually put that out
5 there. I'm putting my name forward again as a
6 representative. And I would actually seek an alternate as
7 well that is a chief. Because I understand in British
8 Columbia we have six communities that have put letters
9 forward, looking at an actual coordination agreement and
10 triggering a process with the federal government. And it
11 would be useful actually, if like myself -- because we
12 submitted a letter as well as another community and
13 another chief could be of the same mind, so we can
14 actually push this collectively. Because the issues with
15 the federal government, as I'm seeing in the process is
16 what they've done -- and this is what the feds always do.
17 They've got this legislation and they've staffed up with -
18 - all of a sudden we're seeing all these bodies appear on
19 the ISC side all around C-92. And none of them are
20 decision makers, none of them can make decisions. And so
21 we're wasting our time.

22 And so that's one of the things we're
23 looking at right now. And, and even if it means a legal
24 challenge to C-92, our community's prepared to do that
25 because we're just tired of this whole process and the way

1 Canada has created this file and how Canada has actually
2 been really lagging in terms of the recognition of our
3 jurisdiction.

4 So I think that that's kind of the process
5 that's unfolding. And I think as it evolves, I will see
6 more things happening. But the push now really we should
7 be thinking about is statutory resources for
8 implementation of C-92. Very similar to how they
9 basically implement the *Indian Act*. You know, the *Indian*
10 *Act*, as you all know is very racist, et cetera, et cetera.
11 And I've been telling the federal government that C-92 is
12 an opportunity to do something meaningful in terms of
13 reconciliation for the children and for our future and our
14 families. And I think it's really, really important that
15 they do something that's right, and resource in a way that
16 we can actually do what's needed for our families and
17 children.

18 So that's up my update for now. If I have
19 any questions -- try to answer any questions but thank you
20 all. And again, I want to thank for our elder that passed,
21 Tommy Raines and the recognition and the moment of silence
22 this morning. They're burying him tomorrow. So again, I'd
23 like to thank the Union for, or doing out this morning.
24 Kukstemc.

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7. Your

1 prayers and thoughts will follow you and your community
2 into tomorrow as well.

3 Next, we have an update in BC acts by Karen
4 Isaac, hang on a second, Karen.

5 Okay. So apologies, delegates. I jumped the
6 gun a little bit. Karen asked me to hold off a little bit.
7 We're not quite finished the deck. Go back to Kukpi7 Judy.

8 JUDY WILSON: I just want to thank my
9 colleagues Regional Chief Teegee and Cheryl Casimer and
10 Kukpi7 Wayne Christian for reporting out. The issues that
11 we face every day as community leaders and, you know, in
12 our communities. Just even as I was sitting here, I was
13 getting texts from different communities on issues. And
14 what do we do you know, when the children are removed and
15 unjustly treated, the same as the young person, the young
16 child that was found you know, in the group home in the
17 lower mainland and there still needs to be the police
18 investigation on that.

19 I wanted to acknowledge Dawn Johnson. She's
20 been working really hard. She was recently promoted to
21 senior policy analyst for children and families with First
22 Nations Leadership Council. And she works tirelessly to
23 advance all these issues. We wouldn't be able to do all of
24 the work that we do in reporting out and supporting these
25 issues if it wasn't for Dawn. So I just wanted to give a

1 shout out for her. And she worked really hard on the case
2 recently with the young man that was found in the group
3 home that was there four days before they even found him,
4 but he passed away. So I just want to thank her for all
5 her advocacy on the ground, in the streets and with the
6 families. It makes a big difference. And just people
7 knowing that there's somebody that'll work beyond hours
8 and beyond their scope of work to bring comfort and love
9 to those families.

10 The other issue is just finishing up my
11 slide deck now was the UBCIC potential intervention on
12 Kiko Montilla. It's another family issue. It's before the
13 Federal Court. Our families and nations have been unjustly
14 impacted and divided by the imposition of colonial borders
15 and border policies that do not align with our own
16 practices and territorial boundaries and laws. And many of
17 the nations who are border nations and many of our nations
18 that know we have children in the States when we say
19 without residency and I know Kukpi7 Wayne Christian
20 brought that up with the Splatsin bylaw, but we're also
21 bringing it up in our own jurisdiction without any
22 restrictions on where our children are, or our families
23 are. We need to recognize that and bring them home.

24 So this is a result of divisions of our
25 families and nations and infringements upon our rights as

1 Indigenous people. And currently there's no strong
2 immigration case law that considers Indigenous rights.
3 And with this Kiko Montilla case, it's an opportunity to
4 bring that view into the colonial setting on this issue.

5 So the relevant United Nations Declaration
6 articles that apply to this human rights violation are
7 article 36(1) and article 40 and the UN Convention on the
8 Rights of Children, article 3.1 and 9.1. I'm not going to
9 read them all out because it takes a little bit of time,
10 but we just wanted to be able to say, this is a potential
11 a case that we could intervention we could do on
12 immigration case law.

13 And as you recall, many of our family
14 members and many of our nations have relatives throughout
15 Turtle Island. And I do believe this is an opportunity to
16 do an intervention and that we it's important to do one.
17 So any intervener application would be based on
18 confirmation of resources for legal counsel.

19 So I think it's really important to test
20 these cases, especially as we're standing up our own
21 nation jurisdictions, it's going to be important to put
22 that type of immigration case law into intervention so
23 that we can reunite this family rightly so, like all of
24 our families that have cross border families, that we
25 should be able to do that under our own jurisdiction and

1 | our own family ties and not have the colonial borders or
2 | the government policies divide our families.

3 | So that's what I wanted to say on the
4 | intervention for Kiko Montilla. Thank you.

5 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay. Just confirming
6 | that's it for the deck. Good. Thank you.

7 | Now we'll do the presenters I'll note,
8 | there's a comment in the chat. I'll ask you to look at
9 | that and we open up the questions after Karen's update the
10 | last one, if you to respond to that. Karen.

11 | KAREN ISAAC: Thank you, Tyrone. I'm
12 | just really very pleased to be here today to share some
13 | information about the work that we're doing in British
14 | Columbia, and also to acknowledge that I am speaking to
15 | you from Squamish Nation territory here in the lower
16 | mainland.

17 | I guess congratulations are in order for
18 | the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. This is their 52nd AGA, and
19 | I think they have an incredible and respected history of
20 | building strength, resiliency, and unity among our nation.
21 | So I just wanted to acknowledge that.

22 | Also to state that BLCC is very honoured to
23 | be charged with the regional mandate for the First Nations
24 | the BLCC framework here in BC, as we continue to work with
25 | all BC First Nations and leadership and government

1 partners to realize the framework's vision of healthy,
2 happy First Nations children and families rooted in their
3 languages, culture and governed by First Nations.

4 Today I'm going to update you on some of
5 our activities over the last year. And again, just to
6 reiterate our commitment to engage with and be guided by
7 First Nations in ongoing framework implementation. I
8 wonder if we can have the next slide please.

9 Just by way of context, I just wanted to
10 put in context, the approach that BCACCS has been taking
11 here in British Columbia in terms of framework
12 implementation. As you know, there are two components or
13 several components to the work.

14 One is the community funding aspect of the
15 work, but also some of media engagement partnership
16 development work that has to happen. In terms of the
17 framework itself one of the first steps that we took in BC
18 once the framework was endorsed by the AFN leadership in
19 2008, was to develop a three-year interim investment
20 strategy.

21 The approach was subs subsequently endorsed
22 by the First Nations Leadership Council in 2019. And it
23 was presented at the May 2019 leadership forum. And
24 essentially the strategy is focused on three main
25 outcomes, which is to build capacity at the community

1 level to focus on a building, to focus on quality on First
2 Nations terms and access, which is to ensure that families
3 are accessing these services.

4 Responsiveness and equitability and
5 flexibility are key principles that are guiding our
6 funding approach with First Nations. Recently, because of
7 the pandemic, we adjusted our strategy in spring 2020 to
8 include 1 million in funding to support BC First Nations
9 and urban Indigenous organizations to support initiatives
10 focused around COVID-19, which really relates to, you
11 know, supporting children and families at this very
12 unprecedented time.

13 Now this strategy, as I mentioned, is for a
14 three-year term and will expire or come to an end around
15 21, 2021/22. And so the next iteration of our approach
16 will be shaped by the IELCC regional planning strategy
17 that we have developed and shared with in collaboration
18 with the First Nations Leadership Council.

19 I understand today we have shared with you
20 a briefing note around our activities to date around the
21 community funding. But also there is a resolution that is
22 going to be debated and discussed today regarding this
23 ongoing work and how the strategy should unfold in British
24 Columbia.

25 Can I have the next slide, please.

1 So I think what this visual attempts to
2 illustrate is where we illustrate this the approach that
3 we would like to take in terms of the regional planning
4 strategy. And again to kind of get the intention here is
5 to set up a process that will ensure that we have BCACCS
6 is guided by First Nations leadership. If you look at the
7 slide to the left it attempts to illustrate where we
8 currently are. And if you look at some of the bubbles in
9 that particular section of the slide, you know, we have a
10 system or a lack of it, a non-system really of patchwork
11 [indiscernible trk 14 35:00] and disconnected
12 opportunities. We also have underserved communities and a
13 situation where equity is not seen across the board.

14 I think one of the positive things, though,
15 about the work that we're doing here in British Columbia
16 is that we have a very supportive leadership. We have
17 leadership that is able to support and advocate and become
18 part of the conversation around how we create a system
19 that is responsive. How do we ensure that funding is
20 equitably distributed across and between communities and
21 regions and how do we collaborate together and learn from
22 this opportunity that the framework is presenting us,
23 which is really to put ownership and control and
24 jurisdiction in the hands of First Nations?

25 And if you look to the little bubble to the

1 right here in the slide, what we want to do at the end of
2 the day is strengthening Indigenous families and children
3 and reclaim and reassume jurisdiction and authority in
4 early learning and childcare.

5 So in terms of the approach. Again, I think
6 part of the conversation and where we want to go means
7 that we are going to look at expanding, enhancing, and
8 transforming current programs and services, that we ensure
9 that the services are informed and led by First Nations
10 community in collaboration and partnership with each
11 other. And when I say that, I also mean that we need to be
12 working with other sectors in education, child welfare
13 health, and that we have to do this through a new and
14 different capacities. And we have to ensure that we're
15 working together to build and support children and
16 families going forward.

17 I really believe that ELCC has to be part
18 of the BC First Nations agenda towards self-determination
19 and control, and for our children, it places cultural
20 strength and learning. It should be noted that 2019/20 was
21 the first full year of IELCC framework implementation in
22 BC. So actual investments totaling about 9.1 million so
23 far needs to be balanced with the ongoing need to develop
24 relationships, policies, and system, the foundation on
25 which this tenure transformation initiative will grow.

1 I must say that it has taken a lot of
2 effort and work on the part of our staff at BCACCS to
3 reach out to communities, to support communities in
4 developing their policies. And as I said to date
5 investments totaling just over 9 million have been
6 committed to First Nations to support wage enhancements
7 for ECDs, community planning, elder involvement, service
8 improvement in quality, [indiscernible trk 14 41:10]
9 capital and of course, COVID-19.

10 The figures presented in our briefing note
11 today reflects on our work to August 10, 2020. We will
12 have a more robust report for leadership in November 2020.
13 And I would also like to urge leadership to visit our
14 website. We have published an annual report on our
15 activities for the last funding year.

16 In terms of the next slide.

17 I am providing slide just to ensure that if
18 any of you have any questions about our approach so far
19 and how we wish to proceed with the regional planning
20 work, please do reach out to us. We're always here.

21 In terms of moving forward, BCACCS will
22 continue to focus on implementing regional partnership,
23 structures and processes. Importantly, this will include
24 beginning work on partnership development and governance,
25 as well as developing an evaluation framework.

1 And secondly, we want to ensure nations,
2 particularly those with little or no services, are
3 supported by our staff, and that we put in place other
4 measures to support local capacity building in the area of
5 planning and delivery of services and programs. We also
6 will make an effort to streamline and strengthen our
7 application and reporting processes.

8 I also want to point out here that our
9 application process is open. There's no end date.
10 Communities can apply for funding at any time.

11 And again, we are, as part of the work with
12 the regional planning process or strategy that will
13 involve the First Nations leadership and of course the
14 First Nations, again, part of the work will also
15 contribute to how we move forward post 2021 in terms of
16 our investment approaches. And again really just trying to
17 learn from this initial three years of investments where
18 are some of the gaps, where some of the strengths and how
19 can we begin to really address the tough issues around
20 funding the remnants, et cetera.

21 So I think that's all I have to report on
22 for now. We are, through this resolution today, again,
23 reaffirming our commitment to work with leadership and to
24 be guided by leadership that is fundamental to our
25 approach. And again, just happy to answer any questions

1 | you may have about our approach so far. I think that was
2 | my seven minutes. Thank you,

3 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Karen. Good
4 | timing. I'm going to circle back to the regional chief for
5 | an important point that he needs to reiterate. And then
6 | there will be a couple minutes for any questions and
7 | comments to the presentations you heard here, or we can go
8 | straight to the resolution after regional chief.

9 | Can't hear you, RC. Could see you moving
10 | with no audio. Nope. How about we give you a minute to
11 | figure that out. It must be on your end, RC. We will open
12 | up for any questions or comments. We will circle back to
13 | you. Not seeing any hands up in the participant list. Are
14 | there any questions or comments for any of the delegates?
15 | Not seeing or hearing anyone we will give RC a chance to
16 | rectify his audio before going to the resolutions.

17 | Making any headway, RC? RC, if you changed
18 | microphones, I'm not sure if you had your headset on at
19 | first. What do you want to have? Here we go. Okay. You got
20 | it. Yes, we can hear you.

21 | TERRY TEEGEE: Yeah, thank you. Sorry
22 | about that. And I just want it to be abundantly clear that
23 | my colleagues Kukpi7 Judy Wilson and Cheryl Casimer and
24 | Kukpi7 Wayne Christian have been abundantly clear with the
25 | federal government that this is a BC-specific process and

1 that we don't want to be held behind and waiting for other
2 regions to implement aC-92.

3 The federal government has this tendency to
4 wait for everybody. We are very fortunate here and
5 hopefully continue to be fortunate to have a willing
6 provincial government to work with us. We're the only
7 region in Canada that has a working relationship with the
8 province and the federal government to implement some of
9 this legislation. So we need to continue to push the
10 federal government and they've acknowledged it too. And
11 the provincial government is really supporting us that
12 this is a BC-specific process and we need to get moving on
13 it and really push this as far as we can. So our First
14 Nations are whatever governance that are structured, we
15 can implement taken over jurisdiction of our child and
16 family welfare.

17 So, thank you for the few minutes there,
18 Tyrone. Mussi.

19 TYRONE MCNEIL: Mussi, RC. I see Kukpi7
20 Webster's hand up. Do you have a question, chief?

21 **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

22 JANET WEBSTER: Yeah. I just have a
23 question for Wayne Christian to see who he'd recommend to
24 be the alternate person for child welfare.

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: kukstemc, Kukpi7.

1 Kukpi7 Wayne, I don't know if you have somebody in mind,
2 if you need a minute to think.

3 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Thanks for the
4 question. Actually, I do not know who the other
5 communities are that have put letters in. And the regional
6 chief was going to look into it. And somebody has
7 submitted a letter for sort of triggering the process for
8 a coordination agreement that they would yeah -- sorry
9 about that. Yeah, it would be that person, or one of those
10 chiefs from that community simply because they obviously
11 have done a lots of work and are ready to go and if we can
12 coordinate what we're doing in British Columbia, all the
13 better. So that we're going to be dealing with the same
14 issues once we hit those tables and our job going in first
15 is the break that trail and open it up for everybody. And
16 I think that's really the intent. Whoever comes forward,
17 I'm not sure, regional chief maybe have an idea of the
18 other communities. I don't know of them at this point
19 because the feds have been fairly tight lipped about who's
20 actually submitted letters.

21 So, Regional Chief, I don't know if you
22 have any more information.

23 TERRY TEEGEE: No, I don't. But I
24 suspect it's one of the tables that we've heard about.
25 That's my only guess, but certainly before November 17th

1 at the BCAFN AGM, we'll put a notice out to all
2 communities, and I suspect those communities that have
3 those coordination agreements have led the way in terms of
4 their jurisdiction to take over jurisdiction. So we'll
5 work with our technical person, Dawn Johnson on this. So
6 thank you.

7 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Proxy,
8 Debbie, I asked a couple of questions in the chat. I think
9 they're answered except maybe your last one. Would you
10 like to speak to it briefly?

11 DEBBIE ABBOTT: Good morning, everyone.
12 Can you hear me all right?

13 TYRONE MCNEIL: Yes.

14 DEBBIE ABBOTT: Okay. I'm just wondering
15 where we can get a copy of that template of the
16 coordination agreement so that we may review it.

17 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Debbie, it's my
18 understanding that there is no template for a coordination
19 agreement is what the community has put forward. We've put
20 forward a very detailed one with the federal government
21 and it took them over three months to respond to it. So
22 I'm not sure.

23 What they've been doing on their side is
24 trying to get themselves organized, like I said earlier,
25 and they're staffing up, but they don't have an idea at

1 all what that actually looks like. So what we will be
2 doing is sharing out what we're doing. Because everything
3 that I do, I've not -- I've ensured there's no
4 confidentiality agreement on it so I can share stuff out
5 and be very transparent.

6 So we will share what we're doing. Other
7 communities, if they're doing that they can do the same
8 thing if they wish. But right now there is, as I
9 understand it, I've not seen any kind of templates coming
10 forward from either the federal or provincial governments
11 at this time. Thank you.

12 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. And I see a
13 comment from Karen in the chat box saying that there's
14 information on the website and on the last page of her
15 deck, she left all her contact information, any follow up
16 as well. So unless there's anything else urgent, we're
17 going to go to the resolutions, because we're coming up on
18 that time again already.

19 And Kukpi7 Webster, can you take your hand
20 down in the participant list please, unless you have a new
21 question.

22 JANET WEBSTER: How do I do that?

23 TYRONE MCNEIL: Just go to the same
24 button and you should able to -- there we go.

25 So I'll draw your attention to resolution

1 2020-27, REGARDING SUPPORT FOR BCACCS AND INDIGENOUS EARLY
2 LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY.

3 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
4 in Assembly fully provide continuous
5 support to the UBCIC Aboriginal Childcare
6 Society (BCACS) as the regional lead agency
7 in the ongoing development and
8 implementation of a regional Indigenous
9 early learning and child care IELCC
10 strategy; and

11 Therefore further be it resolved the UBCIC
12 Chiefs in Assembly call upon BCACCS board
13 of directors and staff to inform IELCC
14 framework, implementation, subject to
15 ongoing engagement and partnership
16 development for regional First Nations
17 leadership via advice and direction from
18 chiefs, community leaders and key
19 stakeholders; and

20 Therefore finally be it resolved the UBCIC
21 Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC
22 executive and staff to work with the BCACCS
23 and the BC Assembly of First Nations and
24 First Nations Summit as a First Nation
25 Leadership Council to support ongoing

1 engagement and implementation processes in
2 BC, as well as help provide the political
3 leadership for the regional partnerships
4 that will be required to ensure IELCC
5 framework best responds to and supports
6 First Nations children, families, and
7 communities in ways they determined.

8 Looking for a mover and seconder. Kukpi7
9 Wayne moves. Kukstemc.

10 DONNA ALJAM: Donna Aljam seconds.

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: Any discussion? Any
12 discussion?

13 LEE SPAHAN: Question.

14 TYRONE MCNEIL: Question has been
15 called any opposition to the resolution. Are there any
16 extensions to the resolution? Seeing and hearing neither
17 the resolution is carried. Thank you.

18 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

19 TYRONE MCNEIL: Next we have resolution
20 2020-28, REGARDING SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS LEADERS FOR
21 COUNCIL MOU WITH THE BC ABORIGINAL CHILDCARE SOCIETY.

22 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
23 in Assembly fully support UBCIC executive
24 to sign the attached draft memorandum of
25 understanding between BC Assembly of First

1 Nations, First Nations Summit and the Union
2 of BC Indian Chiefs working collectively as
3 First Nations Leadership Council and the BC
4 Aboriginal Childcare Society; and
5 Therefore finally be it resolved the UBCIC
6 Chiefs in Assembly direct UBCIC executive
7 working with First Nations Summit, BC
8 Assembly of First Nations, as the First
9 Nations Leadership Council and the BC
10 Aboriginal Childcare Society to provide
11 regular reports to the UBCIC Chiefs in
12 Assembly on the ongoing collaborative
13 objectives and efforts as identified in the
14 attached memorandum of understanding.

15 Looking for a mover and seconder. Moved by
16 proxy Paul Sam, thank you. Seconder Kukpi7 Wayne. Thank
17 you. Any discussion?

18 JANET WEBSTER: Question.

19 TYRONE MCNEIL: Question's been called,
20 any opposition to the resolution? Are there any
21 abstentions to the resolution? Hearing and seeing neither
22 the resolution is carried? Thank you.

23 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

24 TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2020-29,
25 REGARDING SUPPORT FOR YOU BCIC TO APPLY FOR INTERVENER

1 STATUS IN THE CASE OF KIKO MONTILLA.

2 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
3 in Assembly fully support the application
4 for leave and judicial review of the
5 Department of Immigration, Refugees and
6 Citizenship Canada's decision regarding
7 Kiko, Montilla; and

8 Therefore further be it resolved the UBCIC
9 Chiefs in Assembly direct UBCIC executive
10 to seek resources and apply for intervenor
11 status in the Federal Court judicial review
12 of the Department of Immigration, Refugees
13 and Citizenship Canada decision regarding
14 Kiko Montilla's application for permanent
15 residence on humanitarian and compassionate
16 grounds; And

17 Therefore finally be it resolve that
18 subject to resources UBCIC Chiefs in
19 Assembly direct the UBCIC executive to meet
20 the schedule for the application for leave
21 and judicial review with intervenor
22 applications to be filed by November 2020.

23 Looking for a mover and seconder, please?

24 RON IGNACE: I move. Kukpi7 Ron.

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7.

1 Seconder? Kukpi7 Lee. Thank you.

2 Any discussion?

3 JANET WEBSTER: Question.

4 TYRONE MCNEIL: Question's been called
5 any opposition to the resolution? Are there any
6 abstentions to the resolution? Seeing neither it is
7 carried. Thank you.

8 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

9 TYRONE MCNEIL: And just for the
10 screen, there Kukpi7 Ron Ignace moved it.

11 Thank you to the presenters. We're a little
12 bit past time. So we're going to march right along in the
13 agenda. Next we have the Indian Child Caravan Virtual
14 Exhibit with Kukpi7 Wayne, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond.
15 Kukpi7 Wayne and Mary-Ellen will present a deck about the
16 anniversary of the Indian Child Caravan. And you'll find
17 the deck in the presentations folder of your digital kit.
18 Kukpi7.

19 **INDIAN CHILD CARAVAN VIRTUAL EXHIBIT**

20 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Yeah, is my sound on?

21 TYRONE MCNEIL: Yes.

22 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Yeah, probably what
23 I'm going to do I was going to try to use the clicker, but
24 I don't think I'll -- it's too complicated for me. Maybe
25 it's just me. What we're going to do is that I'm going to

1 speak to a number of the slides and then I'll also ask
2 Mary Ellen to speak to some of the slides.

3 I just want to say this. First of all, our
4 community is grateful to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs in
5 your 12th Annual General Meeting in Vancouver. The 12th
6 Assembly. We had resolutions put forward around the issue
7 of children and the chiefs of the day, it may or may not
8 be you, but it may be one of your relatives, whether it's
9 a father or mother or a grandparent that was there, or you
10 know of who was there at that time that supported our move
11 to move forward in the process.

12 So I wanted to say that to begin with, you
13 know, it's a very significant time here we are now 40
14 years later we had actually asked the Union of BC Indian
15 Chiefs to host this AGA in our community where I'm at in
16 our community center and Splatsin, [Native language]. And
17 unfortunately, because of COVID-19 that didn't happen. We
18 were looking forward to hosting all the chiefs to thank
19 you for all that you've done for our families. And the
20 support that you gave to us impacted lives. It is beyond -
21 - it's hard to explain. That picture behind me are my
22 grandchildren. The oldest one that has glasses, she was
23 young there in this picture, but she is now a mother. So
24 I'm a great, great grandfather. So it was her dad that was
25 actually on the trial caravan with his mom and I, and he

1 was only one month old at the time.

2 And so I just wanted to explain that in
3 that context, you know, as we move forward so you kind of
4 get a bit of a feel, and I'll be speaking more about the
5 details. But the significance of the Union of BC Indian
6 Chiefs, and the chiefs taking a stand with us and working
7 with us, the president of the day was the late Grand Chief
8 George Manuel and he supported us in doing a number of
9 different things in terms of political action.

10 So I just want to say to all of you, you
11 know, if what we would have done if you were here is we
12 would have brought you out and thanked you with gifts and,
13 and all of those things, because that's how grateful we
14 are to how you saved lives of our children and our
15 families.

16 I just want to say that before I begin the
17 presentation. So if you can go to the slide deck now, next
18 slide.

19 So this really is, you know, the Indian
20 Child Caravan 40 years later. And this process and what
21 we're going to be talking about, and Mary Ellen will be
22 talking about the details. And maybe she can introduce
23 that now, in terms of what this actually means in terms of
24 the exhibit and what's happening. I want to say Miranda
25 Cambasket [ph] that's online. I think she's on the

1 YouTube. She was the person that did the work for our
2 community, I want to thank her. She's a young person. In
3 doing the work she got to see a lot of the history because
4 this is historical stuff. And to see what our community
5 did back in the day, and her relatives would have been her
6 mom and her other relatives that were directly involved in
7 that. And some of the children at the time now are parents
8 and grandparents. So I want to thank Miranda. You know,
9 thank you for doing out is very important.

10 So I want to turn it over to Mary Ellen. If
11 you can sort of explain what we're going to go through
12 here, the details of the exhibit and how that's going to
13 proceed. So I'll turn it over to you, Mary Ellen, and then
14 I'll come back to the next slide.

15 MARY ELLEN TURPEL LAFOND: Thank you.
16 Thank you very much. And good morning, everyone. And I'm
17 happy orange shirt day, like technology lift up and
18 recognize survivors of the residential schools, and also
19 to give my sincere thanks to Kukpi7 Wayne Christian and
20 Miranda, Robyn at UBC and others, because what we're
21 speaking to today is commemorating an incredible event.
22 The caravan 40 years ago. And unfortunately, with COVID,
23 as Kukpi7 has said, we are doing a digital exhibit and
24 we're going to have a book coming. We're working together
25 closely to lift up the voices of those who began the

1 caravan and why they did it. And obviously, Kukpi7 Wayne
2 has been a powerful spokesperson for young people who have
3 been taken into care and to fight back for First Nations
4 communities to get control over child welfare.

5 And we have a slide deck for you. That's
6 really a lead behind if we could advance to slide three
7 and slide four quickly.

8 So slide three. I think it's important to
9 recognize that this caravan happened October 9 to 13th in
10 1980, so 40 years ago. And it was when the Spallumcheen
11 passed the first bylaw and the bylaw that said, it's over,
12 we're not allowing you to remove our children and we're
13 taking this back. And it led to an incredible showdown
14 with Grace McCarthy. And Kukpi7 Wayne has spoken about
15 this and UBCIC supported it. There are probably some
16 people listening in today who were also part of it, or
17 maybe your parents were part of it.

18 There are some young people in it that we
19 need to lift them up and we need to amplify the voices. So
20 at the UBC residential school history and dialogue center,
21 we are partnering to make a major digital exhibit and a
22 book. Obviously, with COVID is going to be more digital
23 than in person. But when we get through COVID and we can
24 do more in person, we're going to do more in person.

25 If we can advance to the next slide, I'm

1 going to say a few things that I go take it back to Kukpi7
2 Wayne.

3 The number of communities that participated
4 in the children's caravan. And now when we sit in 2020 and
5 look at this Indian Child Welfare Legislation that we got
6 federally, I think people maybe forget younger generation,
7 people across Canada maybe forget how important the
8 leadership in British Columbia was, including all of those
9 faces that you see in that picture. And all of the people
10 from UBCIC who stood up for children and who raised their
11 voices up at the time. And didn't just raise your voices
12 up to say, you know, we're concerned about a single case
13 to say this system's going to change and spoke up for
14 sovereignty.

15 And as Kukpi7 says, supported by George
16 Manuel, but actually really seriously attacked by all
17 kinds of people in power who didn't want to hear. And the
18 rally in Vancouver was really significant. The March all
19 the way through the Interior to Vancouver, going to the
20 home of the Minister of Human Resources, Grace McCarthy,
21 we are looking at her archives and her records and how her
22 mindset changed because of this. She had to change, and
23 her perspective had to change. But change didn't happen
24 because she woke up suddenly, it was because she had to
25 deal with an issue from a different viewpoint. And when

1 Spallumcheen got control over their child welfare program,
2 as we know, like every First Nation that has control over
3 their child welfare, child and family programs, we don't
4 have kids in care. The number goes down. The reconnection
5 happens.

6 And so this 40-year celebration, the reason
7 why I'm extremely excited about the digital exhibit,
8 making sure that all British Columbians and Canadians here
9 from Kukpi7, and everyone in the caravan, and use the UBC
10 archives and our records, because we need to have our
11 voices and we need to have the story out. So young people,
12 when they look at things like we just talked about
13 implementing new child welfare legislation know that this
14 didn't just happen yesterday. This is the context. This is
15 what will drive change.

16 And I think in the book we will produce as
17 well is again, lift my hands up and recognize Kukpi7
18 Wayne's critical role with, and I've lost count, Kukpi7.
19 You have to tell me at least 10 ministers of Indigenous
20 Services or Indian Affairs where Kukpi7 has patiently,
21 since even before 1980, explained, not making fundamental
22 change, isn't going to work. You have to make the big
23 change.

24 We still have a lot to be done. So this
25 exhibit is going to capture that. So really from my point,

1 the slides are really free to keep. Watch for the digital
2 exhibit that's going to come out. We want you to have
3 access to it in your community and your schools.

4 We also want to partner, like if you have
5 something to contribute, we want to make sure it's there
6 because this is about building out the story of how change
7 happens.

8 And the final thing I just wanted to say,
9 cause Kukpi7 always emphasizes this and so does Robin
10 Miranda, everyone from UBCIC, Grand Chief, Kukpi7 Judy and
11 others is that the whole focus of the children's caravan
12 was every child matters, which again, on orange shirt day,
13 we think it's a slogan, but it isn't just a slogan. This
14 is 40 years of unbroken advocacy, 40 years of lifting up
15 every single child and also sending a message today in
16 2020 that we will not stop until every Indigenous child is
17 out of that child welfare system.

18 And that's one of the key messages of the
19 child caravan, is it -- yes, it happened in 1980, but in
20 2020, it continues in this other form. So those are some
21 of the themes and messages you're going to see. Very much
22 influenced by our human rights lens, our UNDRIP approach
23 to empowering and supporting and dealing with the truth
24 and dealing with change. But again, I can't say enough how
25 important Kukpi7, his role has been here to educate, to

1 | inform, to lift up the voices of young people and to
2 | ensure that there is space in that system for change.

3 | So you're going to see a lot of that. And
4 | UBC, I see is a legacy for you UBCIC. So we really want to
5 | celebrate it this year. It's like such a positive thing.
6 | There's so much more work to be done, but such a positive
7 | space. And it's made change in British Columbia, but
8 | national and even international change.

9 | So I'm going to stop there. We can advance
10 | through the slides a bit. You'll see a lot of information
11 | on the -- go ahead one more, you'll see a lot more
12 | information on the milestones and when the project will be
13 | live. But I want Kukpi7 to speak a little bit about why
14 | it's important that we forge ahead despite COVID and we
15 | make this material available.

16 | WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Can we go back one
17 | slide? Thank you, Mary Ellen, appreciate that.

18 | And this really is significant in this
19 | slide in terms of acknowledging the moment, because what
20 | we did in 1980 was very clear that what we asked for was
21 | recognition of our jurisdiction. And we asked that they
22 | return the children they had in care to us, that we would
23 | jointly plan for each child in care, and that we would
24 | seek resources from the federal government to do what the
25 | work that we needed to do.

1 It was a very simple process, but it was
2 very profound because in the discussions with Grace
3 McCarthy the Minister, you have to understand that at the
4 time we did this you know would be considered very radical
5 and very sort of I think in the context of what's going on
6 in the US we'd be sort of those activists left on the
7 side, on the left that Trump keeps talking about, but we
8 were standing up for our children.

9 And the important part is this is yes,
10 there were adults. But if you look at all the pictures, a
11 lot of them were children. From our community we had over
12 40 to 50 people in attendance and a half of them or 50% of
13 them were children. And like I said, they have become
14 parents and now grandparents. They were fighting and with
15 their voice standing up, along with the support of all the
16 chiefs. And I think that's really a significant moment and
17 to do this at this time and to acknowledge it and in this
18 way is really, really important.

19 As was mentioned and I think I saw on the
20 chat, Judith, I really appreciate what you said you were
21 there and that support you gave. It was kind of a
22 phenomenal thing because one of the things we did is
23 George Manuel, in his wisdom, assigned to me a black man,
24 an African National Congress member from South Africa that
25 was exiled in Canada. His name was Jacob Marula, and he

1 worked alongside me to organize the caravan in terms of
2 staging areas, things that he would have done in South
3 Africa for his people. And so he was the one that actually
4 located Grace McCarthy's house for us, because you can't
5 just go and, you know, we're coming to town and the
6 original plan changed, we shifted the March and the police
7 didn't know what we were doing, but we shifted the March
8 to go to Grace McCarthy's house. And it was on
9 Thanksgiving.

10 We had the legislation that we were
11 proposing to stuff it in a Turkey and hand it back to her
12 and say, we don't recognize provincial jurisdiction. It's
13 our jurisdiction that has to be recognized and stood up.

14 So it's really important to acknowledge
15 that moment in history. And the many people that came
16 forward in Vancouver and around British Columbia that came
17 from the North, that came through all the different areas
18 and the security personnel like I would ask in your own
19 memory, if there are people, you know, that were involved
20 in this, I would ask you get hold of us and tell your
21 story, or get hold of Mary Ellen and tell your part of the
22 story. Because like I said, without the Union of BC Indian
23 Chiefs and the people that came forward it was not
24 possible for, you know, what we stood up and did. We were
25 just the point of that spear that opened our process up.

1 And so I think that that's, what's important.

2 You know, it's been 40 years now, we have
3 federal legislation, you know, back then the feds weren't
4 even thinking about children in terms of the concept of
5 child welfare, they were thinking about in terms of
6 residential school. Yes. And so I think that's why the
7 continuation of every child matters and the orange shirt
8 day, you know, what our ancestors suffered through because
9 when we did this work, nobody talked about the residential
10 school. I know our elders are standing up in these
11 community sessions and talking very passionately about the
12 children. I didn't know, but they were talking about their
13 own lives and their siblings and those that they went to
14 school with in residential school, they were very
15 passionate and strong about, we have got to do something,
16 and nobody talked about residential school at that time in
17 1980.

18 Now I understand, many years later, that
19 that's what they were doing there was talking about
20 themselves. And so that's why today's important and the
21 significance of every child matters. And what we're doing
22 with this is it's a part of history, but we got to carve
23 out a new path for all the children right across British
24 Columbia.

25 Next slide.

1 So I think this is the stuff that Mary
2 Ellen went through.

3 Next slide.

4 And it really is about human rights. Like I
5 said, in this picture -- like I said, all of those
6 children now have children themselves and, or our
7 grandparents. So that's how important it is. When I talk
8 about children leading the way, that's what our children
9 were doing, they were leading the way. And it really is
10 about making the visibility of what we were doing. And it
11 was hard actually for the public to understand. And we
12 still see that today because of the racism. Maybe you can
13 imagine this was 1980 and the racism was very prevalent,
14 but we utilized mainstream media to get the message
15 across.

16 One of the other things that we did that
17 was uncommon at the time is we did radio commercials right
18 across British Columbia, simply because radio -- and I
19 still think it is a medium that a lot of people listen to
20 the radio rather than watch TV. So that was one of the
21 things we did in terms of the media campaign. And again,
22 the Union of BC Indian Chiefs' communication department
23 was phenomenal.

24 If you look at all the print material that
25 they did, we did the radio commercials, how they set up

1 all this stuff with Jack Webster and all of that, the
2 Union of BC Indian Chiefs has always been the leader in
3 terms of making sure the message gets out. And again, the
4 significance of this is really important. So I want to say
5 that again, I'll keep repeating myself, you know, Grand
6 Chief Stewart Phillip you know Don Tom, and to Kukpi7
7 Wilson, all of you, that continue that work of advocacy
8 because that's what made this happen. It's really
9 important.

10 Next slide.

11 And I think it's important. You know, this
12 is the kind of material I was talking about. This kind of
13 stuff we'd sent out as bulletins and update everybody
14 what's going on and very phenomenal work by the Union.

15 But I think the bottom line is this is
16 rather than talking about it, our community is really
17 interested in doing something. It was not about just
18 saying, Hey, let's just say this. You know, and our
19 community was committed. Let's do something.

20 Because you have to understand at that time
21 we did this, the elders that informed and told us, and we
22 worked with Louise Mandell over a year to develop our
23 legislation. The elders told us, because we asked the
24 question, well, how do we look after ourselves before they
25 impose white law on us? And they said, we had our own law.

1 We had our own courts, we had our own jails, we had our
2 own police.

3 And so that's what the elders told us. And
4 these were elders that were born around the turn of the
5 century. So this is pre-sort of the imposition of a
6 section 88 of the *Indian Act*. So they kind of understood,
7 and that's what we stood up.

8 And if you look at our legislation, it is
9 very straightforward, and it covers that whole concept.
10 And it's part of the Secwepemc tradition is that it's
11 community-based, but it really is about an Indian court
12 and how that process and it is about taking action. Next.

13 So these are the things that Mary Ellen
14 talked about in terms of -- I don't know if you want to go
15 through these, Mary Ellen, the next few slides on the
16 actual exhibition, what it's going to look like.

17 MARY ELLEN TURPEL-LAFOND: Yeah, sure.
18 I'd be happy to do that. Yeah. So it's about telling the
19 story. And the digital exhibit, you'll see it's about
20 communities across British Columbia coming together and
21 Kukpi7 has talked about what motivated Spallumcheen and
22 what was happening in his own life and community. This is
23 also about bringing everyone together because it was a
24 unified piece of work. And you know, there's so many like
25 different stories about how building that unity through

1 the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and through partnering
2 around putting children at the center was so important.

3 So the digital exhibit, this just gives you
4 a screenshot. If we could advance to the next page.

5 You'll see, we're going to be mapping the
6 journey and creating additional pieces of input from
7 people who were on the journey, but from today. So we're
8 collecting their oral histories. And if anyone listening
9 has something to contribute, it's not too late.
10 We're continuing to build this out. We can record you.
11 We've got Miranda and others who are working with us to
12 get this.

13 And then just advanced to the next page, if
14 you can.

15 And that is again, what Kukpi7 said about
16 the focus on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
17 People. It's about sort of like walking these paths
18 together, the path to advocate for the rights, human
19 rights of Indigenous families and children and nations and
20 the children's caravan, they're like a shared journey. And
21 in 2020 many things came together, we got DRIPA in NBC, we
22 got federal child welfare legislation. We have the 40th
23 anniversary, they're big steps that they come together.
24 There's a lot of work to be done, but it's like talking
25 about the connections, right? How are they connected? And

1 young people coming up today, being educated, whatever,
2 maybe don't see it. And they don't have the chance to hear
3 from each of you directly. So the exhibit's going to cover
4 that.

5 And if we can advance one more slide,
6 please.

7 There is going to be virtual screenings and
8 gatherings. So we will make that available. We'll have
9 good digital material. If you want to have a COVID
10 friendly gathering and view it, we can arrange for that.
11 And we are going to support that.

12 And then advance one more slide, please.

13 And then there's lots of scope for
14 feedback. You can send me chat messages today. But the
15 book, we're going to have a very interesting book on UBC
16 press, which is *Our Children, Our Future*, the Indian
17 Caravan. So that's going to actually come to print in
18 2021. It's being finalized now.

19 And so there's lots of opportunity. If you
20 had an experience or a reflection, we can still collect a
21 lot of that and put it in the book. And why do we do a
22 print book? And an eBook is because we want it to go to
23 all the schools of social work, Indigenous studies all
24 over, not just UBC all over BC, all over Canada, to
25 understand that these things like change for children and

1 families didn't come because of the generosity of someone
2 saying we're going to end colonial practices. They came
3 because of hard unflinching advocacy that came from a
4 spirit of love and a spirit of acceptance and a spirit of
5 promoting human rights. And again, on orange shirt day,
6 it's good to say that survivors who went through the 60
7 scoop, survivors who went through residential school,
8 picked a focus of taking their voice to seeing human
9 rights strengthened and seeing systems changed to prevent
10 this from happening again.

11 And it's not just the burden that survivors
12 carried, but the leadership that survivors of 60 scoop,
13 residential school and all of these other abuses that have
14 happened have shown the resilience and leadership and are
15 showing the way. So the book is going to help shift the
16 mindsets, but also shows younger students mindsets have
17 shifted, but where did that happen? Because often in those
18 classrooms and elsewhere, the real story is never heard.

19 So again, I just want to say thank you to
20 Kukpi7 Christian, his community and UBCIC, this is a great
21 collaboration. We're having a lot of fun doing this
22 project, and we're not going to let COVID hold us back.
23 We're going to still launch it and we're going to get it
24 done. So thank you back to you, Kukpi7.

25 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Thank you, Mary

1 Ellen. I just want to say that it's really important. I
2 know that this is sort of history and if people have
3 photographs or that kind of sort of information, this is
4 really important to put it forward because I would really
5 like to put something together that is a visual in nature
6 because at the time when we did the stuff that we were
7 doing, we didn't realize that we're going to be making
8 history. Our community was just really concerned about how
9 we actually protect our children, how we stop the
10 apprehensions. And that was the big initiative for this
11 because our community was devastated by the 60 scoop. We
12 have a community at the time we did this, about 350, and
13 we had a hundred children removed from our community.
14 Every family in our, in our community, except for one were
15 impacted.

16 So even today, I think about that. I think
17 about the devastating impact that had psychologically, and
18 we're still recovering from that trauma. And why we fight
19 so hard for our children is that it's about stopping the
20 apprehension, stopping the removal, recognizing our own
21 laws, stand them up and let's get on with it because our
22 children deserve the best. I think that we have enough
23 issues with society as a whole with racism and all those
24 things that when you have your own laws and your own
25 jurisdiction, you can extend that to wherever the child

1 is. Because I think Kukpi7 Judy mentioned it's not
2 withstanding residency what we do. We've been all over
3 North America, you know, down into the Texas, Georgia.
4 We've been right across Canada. We've been in probably
5 every one of the provinces protecting our children.
6 But again, that's the whole process of having resources
7 and why C-92 is so important. We can open that up for
8 everybody to do the same thing that we're doing based on
9 your inherent jurisdiction. So again, I want to thank, on
10 behalf of our children and our community, you know, the
11 people that stood up the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the
12 chiefs of the day that were there. I said, maybe you
13 weren't there, but maybe one of your relatives, maybe your
14 father or mother or grandparents were at that session. The
15 12th annual AGA of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs in
16 Vancouver when this took place.

17 I was a young man at the time. And I as my
18 son say, I'm no longer young, I'm a fossil now. So I
19 etched into the rocks. I'm kind of the rock painting in
20 the rocks now. Let's do what we need to do and let's do
21 what's right for our children.

22 And again, I just want to thank the Union
23 for the opportunity to make this presentation today. And
24 Mary Ellen for your hard work on this, it's going to be an
25 exciting process actually. And our community is really

1 looking forward to how this is going to unfold and be
2 presented. So kukstemc, Mary Ellen, thank you for your
3 hard work and the staff at the Union and our staff at
4 Splatsin for doing what they've done so far. Thank you
5 very much.

6 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7 thank
7 you Kweekway [ph]. We are a little bit over time, but
8 we'll make time for at least two or three questions or
9 comments starting with the regional chief.

10 TERRY TEEGEE: Yeah. Thank you, Tyrone.
11 And I just wanted to recognize and acknowledge the good
12 work that, Kukpi7, you've done and also to Mary Ellen and
13 on this really you know history. And far too often in the
14 history books in public schools, we don't hear the truth
15 about the history, the true history of Canada, and that
16 this history goes back further than 200 years, but this is
17 our lived history. And perhaps you know, if you know, I
18 would have been eight years old in 1980. So I would have
19 been one of those kids perhaps you know, that might've
20 been taken away.

21 And I always remember that from my parents.
22 I've talked to speaking of 60 scoop that there was a
23 certain car that drove around collecting kids and we were
24 all afraid of it. And you know, you realize what that
25 meant, you know, in the issue of you know, that push in

1 the 60 scoop.

2 So thank you for all the good work and the
3 Union of BC Indian Chiefs, 52 years of really advocating
4 and all Indigenous people here in British Columbia's
5 behalf and finding ways. So not a question per se, but
6 more of direction in terms of communications, because I'm
7 sure in British Columbia, we can share this information
8 and if there are stories out there of First Nations that
9 were there, where can we send them to? Perhaps we should
10 have a communication strategy to send out to many of the
11 First Nations in the North or in the South that attended
12 this caravan to see if they have pictures or maybe even
13 get their stories on why they attended the caravan or
14 something like that. So more of a direction or something
15 that we can send out social media and what have you, and
16 get them you know, find them and send them in the right
17 direction so they can participate in this really important
18 history lesson, really. So, thank you for all that you've
19 done. Mussi cho.

20 TYRONE MCNEIL: Mussi cho. We're going
21 to go to Chief Don Tom and ask for responses after Chief
22 Don.

23 DON TOM: Yes. Thank you, Ty. And thank
24 you to Kukpi7 Christian and to Mary Ellen for enlightening
25 us today. And I think it's for me as a younger person,

1 | it's exciting to see our history being retold because much
2 | to Mary Ellen's comments. You know, if it wasn't for
3 | people before us who provided us opportunities that we
4 | have now, I think in many ways, it rejuvenates me to know
5 | that the fight isn't over and that it continues on. And
6 | you know, the strength and the resolve that our ancestors
7 | had.

8 | And whether you're a fossil or not, Kukpi7,
9 | certainly the history that you're sharing with us is very
10 | rich. And in terms of how we measure success in our
11 | communities and how do we measure children being home and
12 | being able to remain home with their families and to
13 | continue with their language and to continue with their
14 | culture, these things are difficult to measure. And so I
15 | just certainly want to share and express my gratitude and
16 | say that I was very enlightened by the presentation. And
17 | just want to thank you for that. Huychqa.

18 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Not
19 | seeing any other questions or comments, I will go to Mary
20 | Ellen and then Kukpi7 for concluding remarks.

21 | MARY ELLEN TURPEL-LAFOND: Yeah. I just
22 | want to, I just want to say thank you to everyone for the
23 | time today. Thank you for listening, and you're going to
24 | hear more from us. And don't hesitate to be in touch
25 | through the Union, send anything back, we're working

1 closely together. And this project is one very important
2 project, but in every community, there are other important
3 stories that need to be told and we've got to work on
4 that. I really think what our RC Teegee mentioned and Don
5 Tom, and I know Grand Chief Stewart's not with us today,
6 but we will make sure that his leadership and unwavering
7 voice for human rights for Indigenous people is captured
8 as well.

9 So happy orange shirt day to everyone. And
10 thanks again for hearing from us.

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Mary Ellen.
12 And just on the collection of information from RC, Andrea
13 will be putting up a staff member's name and emailing the
14 chat so we can send pictures or stories or whatever to
15 that email that'll then work, and we can connect with Mary
16 Ellen. Kukpi7.

17 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: I just want to you
18 know, again, thank each one of you actually, and Mary
19 Ellen for what we're doing here, the regional chief and
20 Don Tom, and all of the Kukpi7s that are online here and
21 the [Native language], the elders. I think we always talk
22 about children as being the future. We keep forgetting
23 that the future for our children is right now. It's not
24 tomorrow. It's right now in this moment, in this minute.
25 And in terms of what we actually do, what decisions we

1 make to actually alter the future for those children. So I
2 really want to emphasize how important -- you know, this
3 was historical, but in the context of today, we have many
4 more tools at hand that we can actually stop the onslaught
5 of a genocide and the colonial process on our families. We
6 have those tools now let's use them. Let's put those
7 barriers up so that our children don't get removed.
8 Because at the end of the day the children will come back
9 and ask you as a Kukpi7, as a chief, what did you do to
10 protect me? And I think you have to do everything we can
11 to do what is necessary to provide for our children, their
12 future and their language, and you know, the land and
13 water and all those things we fight for at this
14 organization at the BCAFN, at the AFN, at the First Nation
15 Summit, everything that our leaders fight for is the
16 future for our children.

17 And we have to understand that we protect
18 the little ones. We protect those little people, what
19 we're, in fact, doing is protecting the little ones of all
20 the creation, because those little ones grow up with that
21 connection, you know, to the young four-legged, to the
22 salmon, to the winged ones, all of that.

23 If we do that, then that's what we were
24 taught that our future really is in our hands and what we
25 do with is important, we did a part of history over the

1 last 40 years, but it's time to open it up and make sure
2 that our laws apply to our children period, and that
3 Canada gets the hell out of the way, the province moves
4 out of the way and just recognize our jurisdiction for our
5 children. Let's get on with it.

6 Again, my hands up to all the organizations
7 that continue this work, the tripartite process. And I
8 really do look forward to the ongoing you know things
9 that'll open up over this next, I see in the next two to
10 five years.

11 Kukstemc. Thank you, Ty. You do an
12 excellent job. It's hard to chair virtual meetings. I want
13 to say thank you to you. Thank you very much.

14 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7. I
15 appreciate that. Thank you. TY, Kweekway.

16 We'll move on to our next agenda item, but
17 just before, Regional Chief, your hand is still up in the
18 participant list. Could you lower it, please?

19 (Track 15)

20 **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL UPDATE**

21 TYRONE MCNEIL: Administrative and
22 financial update. And I say that tongue in cheek more for
23 our finance folks. But inviting forward, Jody Woods and
24 Arnold Peters, Curtis Wilkinson.

25 JODY WOODS: Thank you, Tyrone. I wasn't

1 nervous before, but now I am, because I think you set some
2 big expectations.

3 TYRONE MCNEIL: It's exciting and
4 exhilarating.

5 JODY WOODS: Exciting. Thanks so much.
6 So I'll be really, really quick just in recognition of the
7 fact that we're a little over time.

8 So first I'd like to acknowledge that we're
9 carrying out this work on the unceded traditional
10 territories of the Squamish, Tsleil Waututh and Musqueam
11 nations. I'm just going to focus this administrative
12 update on sort of how we've been conducting our work
13 through the COVID crisis and what measures we've taken.

14 So as you may know our offices, we closed
15 our offices on March 16th in response to the COVID-19 shut
16 down by the provincial health officer and all staff have
17 been working from home since then, as have executive. This
18 did present a series of logistical and human resources
19 challenges. So early efforts were really focused on
20 addressing these. And this included supporting staff
21 working from home by helping them set up their homework
22 stations, putting in place additional mental health
23 supports and adding some flexibility to staff leave and
24 scheduling.

25 And since then, since June, we'd been --

1 I'm sorry April, we've been also focused on creating an
2 office reopening plan that's responsive to the provincial
3 health officer's recommendations and insure staff safety
4 and comfort. And to this end, we struck a joint
5 occupational health and safety committee who conducted
6 research and staff surveys and then made recommendations
7 to me and then I worked with a labour lawyer to develop a
8 full back-to-work plan and related policies, which was
9 shared with UBCIC staff and executive on July 9th.

10 Melissa Adams, our librarian and archivist
11 and I, mostly Melissa, set up the physical space of our
12 office, which included providing PPE for staff and guests,
13 and then signs everywhere and removing a lot of shared
14 items, just so the place was safe for people to come back
15 to work.

16 Our back-to-work plan key principles
17 include the following. It's really safety first and
18 voluntary for staff. So at this point, returning to the
19 office is entirely voluntary and staff who do must adhere
20 to strict safety and sanitation protocols. It's a
21 progressive and phased approach. We have four sort of
22 stages or phases that we're looking at, but we're kind of
23 in a holding pattern at stage two for the foreseeable
24 future, especially in light of the second wave that we're
25 seeing of infections. So this includes a modified and very

1 limited travel and in person meeting allowance and
2 continued option for staff to work from home and then also
3 staff access to the office on a cohort basis. And it's
4 really -- the plan is supposed to be flexible and
5 responsive to any public health advisories. And at any
6 point, if it gets worse out there, we may scale it back to
7 all work from home.

8 The other thing we've been thinking about
9 is funding during and after the COVID crisis. So I think
10 we're all anticipating lean times in the next couple of
11 years for maybe several years after that. So right now to
12 address this, we're working with funders to ensure we can
13 carry over funds for multiple years and cash manage in
14 that way and where possible we're trying to secure multi-
15 year funding to create some stability. And we're exploring
16 other funding -- alternate funding opportunities and
17 possibly considering other revenue streams. So there's a
18 lot more information and our safety plan and policies
19 included in tab one in your kit. There's also a project
20 update, so it lists all of the projects we've been working
21 on and plan to work on and where they're at, what the
22 status of them is.

23 So feel free to reach out to me with any
24 questions. This is pretty brief, but there is more
25 information in your case.

1 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks, Jody. And in
2 your kit it is under the administrative update and
3 financials in your digital kit. We have Curtis Wilkinson
4 next who will take us through a deck on the audit and
5 Arnold will be available for any detailed questions
6 resulting from that audit. Curtis.

7 CURTIS WILKINSON: Thank you. I'm
8 assuming everybody can hear me okay. First of all, I just
9 want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to go
10 over the audited financial statements for the year ended
11 March 2020, especially given the current situation I
12 completely understand how difficult it is for everybody.
13 So thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

14 I believe everybody has a copy of the
15 audited financial statements, as well as the slides that
16 I've prepared. I'm not going to go over the whole
17 auditor's report. It's all been -- it's in the financial
18 statements and it's all been duplicated in the slides.

19 But the one thing that I want to talk about
20 is the very first paragraph in our auditor's report, it's
21 called our, our opinion paragraph. And it says,

22 We've audited the financial statements of
23 the Union, which comprises statement of
24 financial position at March 31st, 2020, the
25 statement of operations, statement of

1 changes in net assets and the statement of
2 cash flows for the year then ended and
3 notes to the financial statements. In our
4 opinion the financial statements present
5 fairly in all material respects the
6 financial position of the Union at March
7 31st, 2020, the results of its operations
8 and its cash flows for the year then ended
9 in accordance with Canadian accounting
10 standards for not for profit organizations.

11 And so basically that is what we call a
12 clean audit opinion or an unqualified opinion. That's the
13 type of opinion you want on your financial statements.

14 I have the rest of the audit report in
15 here. I'm not going to go over it word for word just in
16 the sake of time. I can't get my slides to advance here.
17 So if we could go to the next slide, Oh, there we go. I
18 did want to touch base on just this one paragraph in our
19 audit report that we have to have, and it's required under
20 the *Society's Act*. And it basically just says that the
21 accounting policies are consistent year to year, that
22 they've been applied on a consistent basis. That is
23 required under the *Society's Act*. And if you want to
24 follow along in the financial statements, the next one I'm
25 looking at is the statement of financial position.

1 And what I'm going to do is I'm just going
2 to kind of go over it on a very high level and highlight
3 items that have changed year to year.

4 So the first item is cash. So the cash
5 balance of just over 2 million has increased by almost
6 \$1.2 million. The main reason for that large increase in
7 the cash balance is there was funding that was received
8 prior to the end of March for a project that hadn't been
9 started yet. And that project, the original deadline was
10 March 31st, 2020, but it's been extended. So it it's a
11 project that will run in the 2021 fiscal year.

12 Accounts receivable just over a million
13 dollars, it has increased by almost 900,000. There's a few
14 reasons for that. Mainly it's just timing. There was
15 \$220,000 receivable from Indigenous Services Canada or
16 ISC. \$467,000 receivable from the Province of BC and
17 \$187,000 receivable from the BC Assembly of First Nations.

18 Most of those have been collected after the
19 year end. So it was just a matter of timing.

20 Prepaid expenses has increased by about
21 \$68,000. The main reason for that is there was a payment
22 made to a hotel for conference that was scheduled for
23 March. Unfortunately, it was postponed.

24 Accounts payable. So we're looking at the
25 liability side now, has decreased by about \$124,000.

1 That's just a timing thing. The deferred revenue of a
2 million dollars, million and 8,000. That's what I had
3 talked about previously. So that was money that had been
4 received before the end of March, but it was for a project
5 that hadn't started yet. So for revenue that will be
6 recorded in the 2021 fiscal year.

7 The net assets or the equity of the Union
8 has increased by about \$1.2 million. And that change
9 simply reflects the surplus for the year.

10 Working capital, which is an indication of
11 the liquidity. It has a surplus of 1.9 million in the
12 current year, and that just represents current assets less
13 current liabilities.

14 I put this graph in here just to kind of
15 show an analysis of the past five years. I am not going to
16 go into in great detail, but it just kind of shows the
17 assets obviously are a lot higher this year. And again,
18 that's just because of the money that had been received by
19 the end of March. That's going to be spent in the 2021
20 fiscal year.

21 So next I'm just going to very quickly go
22 over the statement of operations or the income statement.
23 So the ISC revenue of just under 2.9 million has increased
24 by about \$567,000. Now that funding, the concern is always
25 that ISC could claw back some surpluses. The only funding

1 that's subject to repayment is the core funding.

2 The Province of BC revenue from almost 1.6
3 million has increased by about a million dollars. And
4 that's just due to additional funding that was received
5 for new projects during the year, total revenue of 5
6 million has shown an increase of \$1.6 million.

7 If we look at the expense side, so general
8 administrative expenses of \$131,000 is increased by about
9 76,000. And that's just that's mainly due to monies paid
10 to Shuswap Nation Tribal Council as part of the children
11 and families department. Professional fees has been one of
12 the largest expenses and it continues to be. \$685,000,
13 it's increased by about 156,000. Sorry. Yeah, it's
14 increased by about 156 and in the prior year, showed an
15 increase of about 77,000 as well. And that's mainly doing
16 the same thing last year, mainly due to new programs in
17 the current year.

18 Salaries and benefits, again, is one of the
19 largest ones. It's a 1.35 million and increased by about
20 183,000. And again, that's due to new programs during the
21 year, which we would expect given the increase in the
22 revenue, as well.

23 Travel of \$650,000 is increased by about
24 141,000. So the surplus for the current year is about 1.2
25 million. And you can see in the prior year, it was just

1 under 300,000.

2 Again, this is a graph that I just prepared
3 just to show the last five years. So you can see revenue
4 has been steadily going up as well as the expenses. This
5 one is one that I like to go over. What this shows, cause
6 what we want to see is ISC revenue, you get money from
7 ISC, we spend it, otherwise it could be subject to claw
8 back, like I just talked about. And you can see those
9 first two columns ISC revenue and ISC expenditures, they
10 follow each other, which is exactly what we want to see.

11 So I kind of flew through that. Does
12 anybody have any questions, or I can turn it over to
13 Arnold?

14 TYRONE MCNEIL: Any questions or
15 clarifications?

16 ARNOLD PETERS: I'd just like do mention
17 that we had a couple of surpluses from 2019, research
18 74,000 and a project called ATI user's guide. We still
19 have 9,900 to expend there. So those have to be expended
20 also in this fiscal year or possibly carried over into the
21 new year.

22 TYRONE MCNEIL: You're talking about
23 this current fiscal as opposed to the audited period,
24 Arnold?

25 ARNOLD PETERS: No, I'm talking about

1 | this fiscal -- the audit doesn't reflect the surpluses of
2 | 2019 that still have to be expended. I'm just wanting to
3 | mention that.

4 | CURTIS WILKINSON: Yeah. What Arnold is
5 | talking about is there's carry over surpluses from
6 | previous years that are available for the 2021 fiscal
7 | year. Correct, Arnold?

8 | ARNOLD PETERS: Yes. I don't think it's
9 | resected anywhere in the audit, but in our books it is
10 | there.

11 | CURTIS WILKINSON: Where it's reflected
12 | is just in your total equity. It doesn't show that the
13 | surplus by department.

14 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Any questions or
15 | comments from chiefs and delegates?

16 | CURTIS WILKINSON: Can I just say one
17 | more thing?

18 | I neglected to thank Arnold and Jody for
19 | their assistance with the audit this year. So I just
20 | wanted to make sure that I did that.

21 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Last call
22 | for questions or comments from chiefs and delegates. Not
23 | seeing any I'll draw your attention to the resolution.

24 | Resolution 2020-30 REGARDING ADOPTION OF
25 | THE 2019/20 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

1 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
2 in Assembly hereby adopted 2019/2020
3 audited financial statements as presented
4 at the UBCIC's 52nd Annual General Assembly
5 meeting of September 29th, 30th, 2020.

6 Looking for moving seconder, please.

7 DONNA ALJAM: Donna Aljam, I'll move it.

8 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7.

9 Seconder?

10 RON IGNACE: Kukpi7 Ron seconds.

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7. Any
12 discussion?

13 DONNA ALJAM: Question.

14 TYRONE MCNEIL: Questions has been
15 called. Any opposition to the resolution? Are there any
16 abstentions to the resolution? Seeing and hearing none,
17 the resolution is carried. Thank you.

18 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

19 TYRONE MCNEIL: I believe that's it for
20 administrative and financial updates. Thank you. Jody,
21 Curtis and Arnold. And we are back to being two minutes
22 ahead of schedule, we will move on to Specific Claims
23 update.

24 *** (Track 16)

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukpi7 Judy was

1 supposed to open. Well, let me read through the script for
2 is Jody. Jody's going to start with the opening comments.
3 She's going to provide an update, introduce a couple of
4 folks, Haley and Kristina. They're going to do a
5 PowerPoint deck on Trans Mountain, and then we have a
6 resolution in this section, as well. Jody.

7 **SPECIFIC CLAIMS UPDATE**

8 JODY WOODS: Tyrone, Kukpi7 was going
9 to open, but had to step out. And so she may jump in when
10 she's back. So we're just going to provide an update on
11 the work of the UBCIC Specific Claims Research Program,
12 the BC Specific Claims Working Group and on any general
13 advocacy we've been participating in this past year. Near
14 the end of our presentation two researchers Kristina
15 Hannis and Haley Zacks will also be presenting on a recent
16 claim feasibility project that's examining the destruction
17 of archeological sites during the original construction of
18 the TMX pipeline. So we'll interrupt with that too.

19 So I'll just say in the interest of
20 hurrying it through more information about the specific
21 claims research program and the UBCIC library and archives
22 can be found in your kit under tab two and in the digital
23 kit, it would be under legal updates and specific claims
24 and library and archives.

25 So we continue to research and advance an

1 increasing number of specific claims. This year we have
2 190. That's up about 20 claims from last year on our work
3 plan. And these are in various stages of development
4 research, legal review, drafting, or post submission
5 support. There's also -- please have a look in your kit,
6 the library and archivist have produced a really beautiful
7 newsletter that updates on what's going on in the library.

8 With respect to claims reform and an update
9 on the work of the BC Specific Claims Working Group. I
10 might -- well, I'll just continue through and then Kukpi7
11 will add some comments.

12 So the co-chairs of the BC Specific Claims
13 Working Group are, Kukpi7 Judy Wilson and Chief Dalton's
14 Silver. Dalton's unable to be here today, he was here
15 yesterday.

16 The working group has been pretty active
17 this past year, including either engaging directly in
18 advocacy or supporting some advocacy work carried out at
19 the research department. And I'll provide a few brief
20 updates and an overview of reform initiatives here and
21 again, direct you to tab two.

22 The first thing I'd like to talk about is
23 that the Specific Claims Branch has done a reorganization
24 as of April 1st, 2020 SCB was transferred to a new sector
25 of CIRNAC and now has four directorates. There's a bit

1 more information about it in the kit, but they really
2 didn't provide a lot of information. And this is going to
3 be kind of an ongoing theme throughout this report is
4 abysmal communication on the part of INAC and the branch.

5 There are four directorates, including a BC
6 focused claims directorate, we really don't have a sense
7 of what these directorates do. And so we'll report out on
8 that the more that we learn, we've been trying to learn
9 more. The changes weren't communicated. We're seeking more
10 information and will track and report, like I said, on the
11 potential impacts on BC nations.

12 The BC Specific Claims Working Group also
13 sent some communications to the new ADM of Specific Claims
14 Branch, Martin Rahere [ph]. I probably said that wrong.
15 And the Director General Stefan Madiation and the Minister
16 on Canada's -- on the branches response to COVID-19. We'd
17 been hearing from individual nations and some legal
18 counsel that they'd been communicated some inconsistent
19 messages from their negotiators and from Specific Claims
20 Branch about what was going on in terms of COVID-19 and
21 the advancing of claims.

22 So we conducted a national survey base --
23 in most part, because nations were being told that
24 specific claims were a nonessential service and that was
25 pretty alarming.

1 So the survey results identified and with
2 respect to COVID-19 delays and operational shutdowns,
3 closed off negotiations and a total lack of communication
4 and consistency from the branch. The BC working group
5 wrote to the minister and officials at Specific Claims
6 Branch to communicate and ask for the minister to
7 communicate with claimant nations and involved
8 organizations to continue to uphold the honour of the
9 crown, even in the uncertainty surrounding the effects of
10 COVID-19. The BC working group then met with the new ADM
11 and director general of the Specific Claims Branch where
12 some commitments were made. We have heard, anecdotally, of
13 some improvements at negotiation tables of communications.
14 But Canada has not effectively or consistently
15 communicated about this.

16 And as a, I think pretty powerful example
17 of this, the Specific Claims Branch website still contains
18 no information about COVID-19 or the measures it's taking
19 to ensure that claims advance properly.

20 I'm just going provide a quick update on
21 the AFN Canada joint technical working group review
22 process. So this group was struck after the Auditor
23 General's report 2016 and to address the Auditor General's
24 recommendations, but after engaging with nations across
25 Canada, the works was switched to really focus on

1 developing an independent specific claims process.

2 The engagement out of BC and the
3 submissions made by BC nations and the BC Specific Claims
4 Working Group was that this process needs to fully remove
5 Canada's conflict of interest and to integrate Indigenous
6 legal orders and principles. The BC working group has made
7 two submissions to this process. They can be found on our
8 website and in actually on our website. And have been
9 continuing to advocate for an independent process that
10 integrates Indigenous laws.

11 The review process for the AFN I think they
12 have to announce really what they're doing with, in terms
13 of the independent process proposal that they're working
14 on with Canada. I don't think a plan has been articulated
15 yet publicly.

16 And just as an addition to some of the
17 thoughts on incorporating Indigenous laws into specific
18 claims. We worked with Ardith Walkem to develop a web
19 resource for nations who are interested in exploring how
20 to integrate Indigenous laws into their specific claims
21 resolution processes. The website is called Our Laws Arise
22 from the Land, and it includes a discussion paper prepared
23 by Ardith and then interviews with community experts in
24 across BC, across the interior who have been working on
25 doing this, or and who have lots to contribute around how

1 this is done.

2 Change the page.

3 And then finally, the UBC research
4 department and as part of that work, we coordinate the
5 research director's group, which is a group across Canada
6 of people in my position who run claims research units.
7 We've made submissions and are planning to continue to
8 make submissions to federal reviews of the *Access to*
9 *Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* that material can be
10 found on the website and in your kits.

11 And just an update with respect to research
12 and negotiation and loan funding. Canada has made some
13 unilateral changes to research funding and negotiation
14 loan funding guidelines, some of which may have adverse
15 effects on abilities to access these resources. New
16 research funding guidelines created significant and
17 unrealistic reporting challenges and barriers that impose
18 an enormous burden on First Nations and claims research
19 units.

20 In response to this the research director
21 group managed to work with funding services to reinstate a
22 joint claims research unit, research funding working group
23 to address these guidelines. And so they -- we've met
24 twice. And that work is underway.

25 Canada also began implementing new

1 negotiation loan funding guidelines. In some cases these
2 were actually implemented before they were released,
3 announced or before any consultation has occurred, which
4 actually hasn't yet occurred.

5 The guidelines did offer some improvements
6 such as an increase in the maximum annual funding per
7 year, but they also introduced some potentially new
8 barriers. So we commissioned a legal review of the
9 guidelines and are recommending that this issue be raised
10 at the next chief's committee on claims meeting.

11 So at the risk of kind of repeating myself,
12 a lot of these changes and things that I'm providing
13 updates on were not communicated, and still haven't been
14 effectively communicated to First Nations, but implemented
15 fully during say the funding proposal processes. In fact,
16 the negotiation loan funding guidelines were finally
17 posted on Specific Claims Branch's website after they'd
18 been implemented in some cases by over a month.

19 It's a really consistent theme. Elin,
20 yesterday, provided a legal update and she mentioned --
21 she discussed the *Southwind* case in particular. We are
22 seeking leave as part of a coalition with Penticton Indian
23 Band and Williams Lake Indian Band to intervene in this.
24 It looks promising, but I don't want to jinx it. And we
25 have also been granted intervenor status in the *Restoule*

1 case, which is an Ontario case that focuses on the
2 inclusion of an Indigenous perspective rooted in
3 Indigenous legal traditions for an interpretation of
4 historic agreements and understandings. So Ardith is the
5 lead on that one.

6 And I think at this point, I'd like to
7 thank you for an opportunity to provide this update, and I
8 will turn it over to Kukpi7.

9 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks, Jody. Just
10 before we go to Kukpi7. There has been a little bit of
11 activity on our internal chat here on moving folks from
12 YouTube into zoom. And if you weren't here yesterday, it's
13 like informing your chiefs that given this as the AGA, if
14 your dues are paid in full, you move in and participate
15 directly in the zoom meeting, you can vote and comment
16 everything, but if you dues aren't paid, or if you're not
17 a chief, or you're not a proxy, then you're moved into the
18 YouTube channel. So just that clarification for the three
19 or four folks that have come in in the last 45 minutes or
20 so. Kukpi7.

21 JUDY WILSON: Yeah, thank you. Thanks
22 Jody, for a comprehensive and brief overview of the
23 Specific Claims Working Group and the work that the Union
24 BC Indian Chiefs does. It's one of the largest Western or
25 largest Canadian research department in all of Canada. And

1 I really appreciate all the work the staff does in keeping
2 up on these timely issues.

3 I just wanted to update on the BC Specific
4 Claims Working Group and some of the communications we had
5 with the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs committee on
6 lands, territory and resources. And I just want to
7 acknowledge my co-chair Chief Dalton Silver, he wasn't
8 able to be here today. And also I'm an alternate to the
9 Chief Mark Point who sits on the AFN chief's claim on
10 land, territory resources.

11 So on June 18th, 2020 the BC Specific
12 Claims, we wrote to the co-chairs of the AFN committee on
13 land, territory resources to bring their attention to
14 issues requiring AFN action or response.

15 And I think it's important. The letter
16 highlighted that the BC Specific Claims Working Group led
17 advocacy initiatives to advance the just resolution of
18 specific claims. And as you know, we have a large volume
19 here in BC.

20 The letter invited conversation about the
21 roles of our respective organizations and the way to
22 tackle the many critical issues facing claimant nations
23 today. Along with requesting AFN leadership in advancing
24 specific initiatives, the BC Specific Claims Working Group
25 requested that the AFN generate and distribute information

1 analysis to the Chiefs committee on land, territories and
2 resources on a number of critical issues. The implication
3 of changes to negotiation that was low in funding
4 guidelines, the link between claim settlements and
5 financial institutions, Canada's approach to advancing
6 claims in the context of COVID-19 and Canada's contingent
7 liabilities related to specific claims. Information and
8 recommendations on relevant court cases and interventions,
9 such as what Jody just mentioned with *Southwinds*.

10 We have not received a response to this
11 date, to this letter although we sent it out in July, so
12 we're still pressing and maybe asking regional chief to
13 intervene on, you know, getting our response. It's been a
14 lengthy wait on these critical issues.

15 And on the update on the effect of Trans
16 Mountain pipeline expansion on specific claims, the BC
17 Specific Claims is conducting ongoing and multi-pronged
18 studies on the effect of Trans Mountain pipeline on
19 specific claims and the rights of nations along that
20 route.

21 The initial study revealed that there are
22 at least 450 active specific claims along the Trans
23 Mountain route. Subsequent studies have mapped
24 archeological sites that were effected or damaged by the
25 building of the original pipeline in 1952/53. So I believe

1 that at one of our assemblies we had a draft map that
2 showed that. It was really interesting to look at that.

3 And I just wanted to introduce the UBCIC
4 researchers, Kristina Hannis, Haley's Zacks who have
5 compiled this information and will be presenting it now.

6 So, Jody, do we have that presentation?
7 Where did she go? Okay. There it is.

8 KRISTINA HANNIS: Thanks, Kukpi7. I'm
9 Kristina Hannis and presenting with me today is Haley
10 Zacks. And we work for the UBCIC Research Department on
11 Specific Claims. I'm happy to be joining you today from
12 East Vancouver on unceded Musqueam and Squamish and Tsleil
13 Waututh territory.

14 So here's our presentation on the impacts
15 of the Trans Mountain pipeline on archeological sites. And
16 we'll start with an introduction to specific claims. I
17 know many of you are very familiar with specific claims,
18 but just in case there's some people joining who aren't as
19 familiar we thought we'd do an introduction, and then
20 we're going to get into the origins of the project. We're
21 going to cover the historical context of the pipeline, our
22 research methodology, initial findings, and future
23 research.

24 The next slide.

25 Great. So the Specific Claims process is

1 the federal government's approach to addressing past
2 wrongs related to Indigenous reserve lands assets and
3 treaties. And they arise when a First Nation alleges
4 Canada failed to uphold its lawful obligations with
5 respect to Indigenous land and resources. This failure can
6 include failure to protect reserve lands from destruction
7 or expropriation, including for right-a-ways, failure to
8 properly consult or compensate First Nations for such
9 alienations and failure to reserve or protect lands that
10 by law should have been reserves, such as a village site
11 or a graveyard.

12 Development of claims require comprehensive
13 research into our tribal records, oral testimony, legal
14 instruments, maps, and archeological records. And the
15 resolution of these claims typically involves cash
16 settlement, though nations have long argued that other
17 options, such as land or revenue sharing approaches,
18 should be options for redress.

19 So we started this project after talking to
20 Chief Silver about the threat of the new pipeline
21 construction to the sacred site of Lightning Rock and
22 Kukpi7 Wilson's remarks about the pipeline's threat to
23 heritage. We wondered about the original pipelines impact
24 on First Nation heritage in British Columbia. We wanted to
25 know which communities had already been impacted.

1 In claims research I've come across
2 archeologists commenting about the original Trans Mountain
3 pipeline construction. In 1956, Charles Borden and Jim
4 Baldwin visited a village site devastated by the pipeline
5 construction. And in this case, nine out of 10 house pits
6 were destroyed by Trans Mountain construction. And at the
7 time the archeologists noted striking example of wanton
8 and thoughtless destruction and for the need for
9 archeologists attached to pipe crews, utilize this example
10 to press for legislation to protect archaeological remains
11 and provide for investigation when destruction is
12 unavoidable.

13 So that's where this project started. I'll
14 let Hailey talk more about the historical context of the
15 pipeline.

16 HAYLEY ZACKS: Hi. So as part of our
17 project we really wanted to consider how this pipeline was
18 built, why it was built and who built it to better
19 understand what we were researching [indiscernible trk 16
20 19:10]. So what we found is that the original Trans
21 Mountain pipeline was established under a special act of
22 parliament on March 21st, 1951. So this was a government
23 created project.

24 And as well it's an important date to note
25 because it wasn't until September 4th, 1951, that the

1 prohibitions of legal claims was removed from the *Indian*
2 *Act*. So that meant when the original pipeline was
3 conceived of, when the company was created by government
4 Indigenous people could still not hire lawyers legally in
5 Canada. And this process was very quick, as we found in
6 our research, because the Trans Mountain pipeline company
7 was established in March of 1951 and by December of 1951,
8 the Trans Mountain pipeline had been approved by the board
9 of Transport the Board of Transport is the Government of
10 Canada. And this was only following a three-day private
11 hearing. So this meant that this hearing that led to the
12 approval of the original pipeline did not include
13 Indigenous consultation. It did not include any
14 archeological evidence, and it did not include public
15 commentary when it was established.

16 The kind of why of this all happening very
17 quickly, as we understood from our research that this
18 pipeline was considered a nation building project by the
19 Government of Canada, it would be the first pipeline to
20 cross the Rockies. So they had a lot of motivation as the
21 government to get this pipeline built quickly.

22 So with this initial research, we
23 established a relative timeline of important events that
24 took place throughout the history of the Trans Mountain
25 pipeline, the existing Trans Mountain pipeline to deal

1 with both Indigenous legislation, as well as looking at
2 heritage legislation and energy regulation in Canada.

3 So as I mentioned, the pipeline was built
4 in 19 or was established in 1951. The construction was
5 finished by October of 1953. So that's a quick two-year
6 period of construction.

7 It's important to note that when the
8 pipeline was being built, there was a very limited
9 heritage legislation in British Columbia, in particular.
10 The heritage legislation we have now wasn't established in
11 its most sort of scaffolding form until 1960 and then the
12 *Heritage Conservation Act*, which is what continues to be
13 used today, wasn't established until 1977.

14 So the pipeline was built before there was
15 real strong heritage legislation protecting archeological
16 sites in British Columbia. As well, it's important to note
17 that the Canadian Energy Regulator formerly the National
18 Energy Board was not established until 1959 and did not
19 start regulating pipelines until 1961. So this means that
20 any pipeline spillage, any pipeline regulation was not
21 taking place until almost 10 years after the pipeline was
22 originally built.

23 And I will hand it back over to Kristina to
24 talk about our methodology.

25 KRISTINA HANNIS: Thanks, Haley. S

1 So this is pretty preliminary research at
2 this stage. We started by obtaining a shape file of the
3 original pipeline route and put a hundred-meter buffer
4 around the pipeline. And then we obtain information about
5 those sites within the area.

6 So we assessed -- we did some analysis to
7 assess whether we thought the sites could give rise to a
8 potential specific claim and we erred on the side of
9 inclusivity. So if we thought there was a chance we kept
10 it in our study. Just wanted to provide a note about the
11 limitations of our research. Our research only includes
12 information available through the provincial register of
13 archeology. So any site that was destroyed and no records
14 were kept is not included. And also there's many
15 Indigenous heritage sites, probably that aren't included
16 in the register.

17 So onto our initial findings. We found that
18 there are 98 archeological sites within a hundred meters
19 of the existing Trans Mountain pipeline, at least 32 First
20 Nations have archeological sites impacted by the pipeline
21 and the pipeline has destroyed or damaged 64% of the
22 archeological sites it crosses within a hundred meters.

23 We determined that 89 of the 98 sites
24 require future research to determine there's a potential
25 to be filed as a specific claim. At least 58 of which are

1 due to damage by the pipeline.

2 Just to give you a sense of the types of
3 sites impacted. We have eight cultural depressions which
4 could include pit houses, four CMTS, one burial, one
5 cairn, and 76 sites, which were listed as cultural
6 material.

7 HAYLEY ZACKS: We just wanted to give
8 you a visual of the potential failures of government to
9 meet its lawful obligations to First Nations because of
10 the destruction or damage of archeological sites. So, as
11 Kristina mentioned, 89 of the 98 archeological sites
12 within a hundred meters of the Trans Mountain pipeline
13 that we studied have been either damaged or destroyed. Of
14 those sites, 58 were damaged or destroyed by the existing
15 Trans Mountain pipeline. And then there were some other
16 factors that make up the rest of the destruction, which
17 are things like grazing, road construction, logging,
18 recreational use, and hydro development, which could cause
19 destruction or damage of Indigenous archeological sites.

20 So this is our initial research and having
21 done this research, we have some continued questions that
22 remain from it, especially to do with the process by which
23 this pipeline was built, consultation that did or did not
24 happen with First Nations, as well as compensation for
25 First Nations.

1 So we want to know were First Nations
2 informed in 1951 about the Trans Mountain pipeline, and if
3 so, what did this process look like? Did the federal
4 government consult First Nations about the loss of reserve
5 land? Because we do know that the pipeline crosses a
6 number of reserves throughout British Columbia.

7 We want to know if there was any effort
8 from the federal government to compensate First Nations
9 for the loss of reserve land or the loss of heritage
10 sites, even if they are off-reserve, and can specific
11 claims arise from the original pipeline construction, how
12 many, and what kinds of specific claims are we looking at?

13 So these are the questions we have left
14 after doing this initial research. And this is what we
15 have found so far. We really appreciate you taking the
16 time to listen, and we'd be happy to answer any questions.
17 So thank you.

18 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Come back to
19 Kukpis.

20 JUDY WILSON: Thank you to both
21 Kristina and Haley for an amazing job they've done and the
22 data that they've put together. And taken together this
23 research shows that Canada's continuing to layer
24 additional violations on Indigenous rights on top of older
25 unresolved grievances, which was just presented. And you

1 got to remember in 1951 and 53, there was no consultation
2 with our nations, with our people, our collective proper
3 title holders. So that's got to be underscored. And it is
4 failing to act to uphold the honour of the Crown and
5 further the costs of future potential specific claims have
6 not been publicly accounted for in the discussions of the
7 new pipeline expansion or the twinning of the Trans
8 Mountain pipeline.

9 So I again thank the researchers for the
10 amazing work that they've done. And I wanted to also take
11 a few minutes to introduce our new staff. Jody had asked
12 me to introduce our new research staff is James Davey,
13 Karen Slacka, and Bolton Eggleston in his research.

14 And you [indiscernible trk 16 28:00], crane
15 policy. Maybe Jody might want to say the names properly.
16 There's a few names I wasn't too sure how to say, but
17 welcome aboard. And we have, like I was saying, one of the
18 most extensive research departments, research groups in
19 all of Canada I would say at this point. And I also wanted
20 to point out to you , Ty, is that we have a UBCIC
21 resolution, 2020-31. And we have a resolution for general
22 support of the UBCIC Specific Claims Research Program for
23 claims reform advocacy and library archives. And we just
24 really renewing days periodically for reporting purposes
25 and to help with project funding for our other proposals

1 in regard to the research work.

2 I just, again, wanted to note Chief Mark
3 Point for the AFN rep for the chief's committee on land
4 territory and resources. I'm not sure if he's on the call
5 either today, but both Chief Dalton and Chief Mark Point
6 are very great to work with and, you know, they keep the
7 communications up in the strong positions we do on behalf
8 of the Union BC Indian Chiefs. And Mark was appointed from
9 Regional Chief Chapman at the time for the BCAFN. Thank
10 you,

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. Opening up
12 for questions and comments. I see a couple of questions in
13 the chat around spills, but this research piece doesn't
14 take that into account. I am not sure if the researchers
15 have any comments on the impacts of salmon question.

16 HAYLEY ZACKS: I can speak to the spills
17 a little bit. We haven't done all the research into it,
18 but there has been 89 recorded spills since spills started
19 being recorded in 1961. And these range from really large-
20 scale spills to smaller spills and because the pipeline
21 deals with a number of different types of like oil and
22 gas, the spills can range from bitumen to jet fuel to
23 natural gas. So we're just beginning to look into that,
24 but there have been 89 recorded spills. But that does not
25 include the years 1953 to 1961 where there is archival

1 evidence that there were spills taking place before they
2 were being recorded.

3 JUDY WILSON: I just wanted to note if
4 a Chief Dalton Silver was here, he would say that he's
5 still working on the Sumas spill or the Abbotsford spill.
6 It was right on a large aquifer, underground aquifer. So
7 probably most of the Sto:lo nations are aware of that. And
8 he's working on the oil spill report and he's got some
9 real-world renowned experts working on that report with
10 Michelle Corfield and also the Tsleil Waututh nation,
11 they've done their oil spill reports and a member of the
12 Burrard Inlet had a catastrophic spill. I think it was in
13 2003 or four. So they were hugely impacted and have oil
14 spill reports. So we'll be looking forward to those
15 reports when they're ready as well. Thank you.

16 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. Councillor
17 Erralyn.

18 **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

19 ERRALYN JOSEPH: Thank you for calling
20 on me once again, and I appreciate the work of the
21 researchers and the updates from our Specific Claims
22 Working Group on behalf of Snuneymuxw we're certainly
23 thankful for all the commitment and the work that you're
24 doing on behalf of First Nations to share this data and
25 information.

1 [Native language] just wanted to take a
2 moment to share a viewpoint in what we're experiencing
3 with respect to the national specific claims process. We
4 too conducted a little bit of research. And what we've
5 discovered is at the current pace our outstanding claims
6 will take 80-plus years for us to conclude or get to a
7 place where we can resolve. So given that we have five
8 outstanding specific claims and 13 more to come, that
9 presents a significant challenge and issue for us to move
10 forward with this national specific claims process.

11 We're certainly experiencing vast
12 inconsistencies and unpredictable delays in all parts of
13 this process and the absence of open and transparent
14 communication is even more troublesome. That creates a
15 large amount of uncertainty with respect to the pace of
16 the res to resolve our outstanding issues.

17 Another challenge is the loan funding
18 approach. I know that was mentioned earlier, but it
19 certainly isn't a rights recognition-based approach from
20 our perspective, given that our sacred village sites were
21 unlawfully removed that were supposed to be protected by
22 our Snuneymuxw Treaty of 1854, which obviously weren't. So
23 this whole loan funding idea is also problematic for us.
24 Given that we are in COVID the actions and behavior of
25 Canada, through the Specific Claims Branch, to stop or

1 | stall on our work heightens the dishonour of the Crown in
2 | our view.

3 | Because we're in COVID, that should be a
4 | heightened interest by Canada to resolve our claims in an
5 | expedited manner, given that the need of this land for our
6 | people in these trying times.

7 | So at this juncture, Snuneymuxw wants to
8 | address the letters that Union of British Columbia Indian
9 | Chiefs issued to Minister Bennett on behalf of Snuneymuxw
10 | First Nation on April 23rd. And we really raise our hands
11 | to UBCIC and all of your staff and all of the First
12 | Nations to really raise our interests and our viewpoints
13 | forward. And we are very grateful that you work with us on
14 | that, and you're able to turn that letter around in three
15 | days. So that's definitely very much appreciated by Chief
16 | Mike Wise and our chief and council.

17 | We did get a response back from Minister
18 | Bennett in August, mid-August sometime that they are
19 | implementing UNDRIP and the recognition of reconciliation
20 | rights policy for treaty implementation in British
21 | Columbia.

22 | So these are good things that the minister
23 | is saying, but they're not being translated on the ground.
24 | What's happening is we're having to engage all these
25 | national processes like specific claims, national mandates

1 | like the recognition of rights tables, and other processes
2 | that aren't on the ground implementing these new rights
3 | recognition policies and legislation like UNDRIP and
4 | things like that. They're more so colonial in nature and
5 | certainly need to be updated.

6 | So Snuneymuxw is interested to continue to
7 | work with UBCIC in this fashion to, perhaps, present a
8 | national strategy with AFN, FNLC or whomever that
9 | consolidates all of this work, that they don't work in
10 | silos, that they actually work together, and they inform
11 | one another, which in turn will provide some sort of
12 | clarity, I hope, in process. And we also lift up the six
13 | recommendations that the British Columbia Specific Claims
14 | Working Group has advanced, as well at the same time.
15 | We're certainly interested to do this, and we'll be more
16 | than willing to work with UBCIC and FNLC to advance this
17 | work forward. Thank you for your time.

18 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Thank
19 | you, Erralyn. We'll hear from our speakers before asking
20 | for any kind of responses from our panel here. Kukpi7 Lee
21 | Spahan.

22 | LEE SPAHAN: [Native language]. Kukpi7
23 | Lee Spahan. It's good to see everyone. I'm glad everyone's
24 | wearing their orange shirts on orange shirt day. I'd like
25 | to thank the presenters on their report.

1 I see the question about spills. There's
2 been a spill here on the Coldwater reserve, IR. 1 that
3 still has not been remediated, and it's going on four
4 years now. They're supposed to start work. I'm supposed to
5 start work - it is supposed to be the end of
6 September/October they say dealing with the CP holder, but
7 also with chief and council on what's happening.

8 And I liked the question brought up on the
9 impact on salmon, but water, as well, too. One of the main
10 things that I brought up was the water crossings and the
11 impacts to our watersheds within the Coldwater Valley and
12 also within then the Nlka'pamux Nation.

13 It's a very serious concern. As you know,
14 the Coldwater river was listed as one of the two most
15 endangered rivers in British Columbia this year. We are
16 working on the water pilot project here in the Nicola
17 Valley with the five Nicola bands, but due to the
18 election, the provincial election coming up, all of those
19 talks have been put on hold. And that concerns me because,
20 you know, even with the shared decision making that we're
21 supposed to be doing with the province that still isn't
22 happening. It's a huge concern because we were in drought
23 level four where salmon are returning, the Chinook are
24 almost done. We had a count yesterday of 54 returning up
25 the Coldwater River. The Coho are still coming back and,

1 | you know, I'm glad to see that we're moving in a direction
2 | where this is going to specific claims.

3 | Like Coldwater has talked about that, going
4 | back and get compensated back to the early 1950s. I'd like
5 | to know if the researchers at UBCIC are going to do some
6 | video interviews. Our oldest surviving chief is 94. It was
7 | his father that was forced to sign the documents when he
8 | was the chief. And it would be good to get a video before
9 | our elder leaves us. So just one of the recommendations I
10 | have. Kukstemc.

11 | BYRON LOUIS: Good morning, everyone.
12 | Byron Louis, Chief of the Okanagan Band.

13 | One of the points I was going to ask the
14 | group, and this encouraged -- is around the issue of the
15 | terms of union of 1871 where British Columbia had set the
16 | terms as a colony for them to join the rest of Canada. And
17 | then I think it's really important that we all take a look
18 | at article 13, because when you read article 13, it's a
19 | very interesting article. And one of the things that
20 | historically is not understood that it was Joseph Trutch,
21 | who actually negotiated this, was a lead negotiator on the
22 | part of British Columbia for joining Confederation.

23 | And one of the articles that Trutch
24 | demanded that it be put in is article 13. And this was
25 | British Columbia's position of concerning Indians and

1 lands reserved for Indians. And it says,

2 The charge of Indians and the trusteeship
3 and management of lands reserved for their
4 use and benefit shall be assumed by the
5 Dominion Government and a policy as liberal
6 to other -- to have to pursue by British
7 Columbia Government shall be continued by
8 the Dominion Government after the Union.

9 And this was what British Columbia agreed
10 to. When you read that clause, what British Columbia was
11 saying was the only thing that they wanted you know, to
12 have certainty of that the responsibility is of Indians
13 and lands reserved for Indians are the responsibility of
14 the Dominion of Canada, which in turn is the Crown or the
15 federal government.

16 The only thing that they reserved for
17 themselves was upon request from the Dominion for lands to
18 be set aside for that specific purpose were to be and
19 based upon a request from the Dominion Government that
20 they would hand over.

21 And if there's any disagreement on the
22 quality of the land, it was to be adjudicated through the
23 secretary of colonies. And if you look at this process,
24 it's been followed, it was through the joint reserves of
25 1877, which established the majority of the reserves along

1 the Canyon and in the Interior, but it was also followed
2 in 1911.

3 We always concentrate on the fact that
4 Mckenna McBride of 1911 had taken land, but it's also that
5 they had actually added reserve lands in the Province of
6 British Columbia.

7 And there's a number of issues that we
8 really need to be looking at inside of those Terms of
9 Union, because it's a constitutional issue. British
10 Columbia only retained, you know, any vestiges authority
11 was very limited.

12 And I think this is something that we
13 really need to review because under section 16 that there
14 is policy that was actually negotiated in there by Trutch
15 where, you know, we should be taking very close review and
16 legal and political review of that, because it brings in
17 the whole question of legitimacy or the need for treaty,
18 because if you read it, it talks about -- it's almost like
19 it relates to periodic reviews of reserve and adjustments
20 to those reserves would be made under that former policy.

21 So I think there's some of the things that
22 we really need to look at in terms of research, whether
23 it's for cultural, whether it's for these types of issues
24 coming up under the Trans Mountain and others, because we
25 really need to find out what exactly were those terms and

1 | how were they to be implemented. And keep in mind, it was
2 | the person who basically negotiated these was none other
3 | than Joseph Trutch. And I think that would be fitting if
4 | those things turned out to be in our benefit. Okay,
5 | thanks.

6 | TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief. Being
7 | cognizant, we are getting up towards lunch and it's really
8 | an abbreviated lunch. I'd ask the presenters to respond to
9 | the questions and comments that were made. Then we'll go
10 | to the resolution. Starting with Kukpi7.

11 | JUDY WILSON: Thank you for all of the
12 | chiefs that weighed in on the discussion. It's a critical
13 | and important discussion regarding a federal owned
14 | pipeline and impacts to our territorial lands.

15 | The oil spills, I would suggest that maybe
16 | we could hold a session, or I know the two bands affected
17 | were talking about maybe doing a joint press release, but
18 | maybe a joint session, so we could share the oil spill
19 | information. And then the water crossing what Chief Spahan
20 | is talking about. I think we could do that as well as hold
21 | a presentation, water wealth did some of impacts on water
22 | crossings already, some of the data, and then also the
23 | anti-spawning mats, that were being placed a large
24 | mountain in Nlka'pamux and Secwepemc territory and in the
25 | Sto:lo territory. So they impact, you know, the returning

1 for our salmon.

2 And then I also wanted to thank Erralyn
3 councillor on specific claims. The AFN could join the BC
4 Specific Claims Working Group, that's the intent of our
5 letter, on the Trans Mountain specific claims impacts. And
6 we can follow up with Regional Chief Poythress. I believe
7 Regional Chief King is stepping down from the chief's
8 committee on land, territory and resources. So there will
9 be a vacancy there. And we can certainly follow that up
10 and glad that, you know, the information is supporting
11 your nation.

12 And I just wanted to add with Chief Byron
13 Louis adding the background and the context is very
14 important to these issues and, you know, especially about
15 the history of article 13 and also about Joseph Trutch and
16 certainly could you know, further solidify our position.
17 And of course the government's been wanting that certainty
18 for a long time and the colonial processes and terms
19 violated, you know, our -- and breached our title and
20 rights. So I think I agree there does need to be more
21 information on the legal and political review of all of
22 that, and knowingly, you know, how the colonial government
23 did this, but also the federal government owns the
24 pipeline now. So there has to be accountability around
25 that.

1 So I just wanted to thank all the questions
2 and again thank Kristina and Hayley for all the, the work.
3 And yeah, and I don't understand, Jody, can you add in?

4 JODY WOODS: It was Snuneymuxw could
5 join the BC Specific Claims Working Group, and then they
6 would report to the AFN.

7 JUDY WILSON: Yeah. Thank you for
8 catching that, Jody. Thanks. That's what I meant to say. I
9 was just jumping around from different interviews today.
10 Thank you. And thank you for taking the time to listen to
11 us.

12 Kukstemc, Kukpi7. Jody.

13 JODY WOODS: I just wanted to pick up
14 on something that councillor Erralyn had said about loan
15 funding, negotiation and loan funding. Just what I had
16 been hearing, and it's sort of been dangled for a couple
17 of years, is that after comprehensive claims negotiation
18 funding was converted to contribution funding, there was
19 talk of doing the same with specific claims negotiation
20 loan funding, and then that talk ended a while ago and
21 like maybe a year ago, and then I've been hearing little
22 rumblings about that possibility again.

23 So I'm trying to find out more information
24 about that if they're actually going to move forward with
25 that, and I'll let you know what I find out. And I'll also

1 reach to you to talk further about the BC Specific Claims
2 Working Group, and then count -- Chief Spahan, I just
3 wanted to pick up on your comments about interviews and I
4 will reach out to you about that, as well. Okay. Thank
5 you.

6 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Jody. I'll
7 draw your attention to resolution 2020-31, REGARDING
8 SUPPORT UBCIC SPECIFIC CLAIMS RESEARCH PROGRAM AND UBCIC
9 LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES.

10 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
11 in Assembly fully support the community
12 work of UBCIC specific claims research
13 program and the UBCIC library and archives.
14 Short and sweet. Do we have a mover and
15 seconder?

16 BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief of the
17 Okanagan Band, I so move.

18 TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief.
19 Seconder? Kukpi7 Spahan, thank you.

20 TYRONE MCNEIL: Sorry. I seen Kukpi7
21 Lee's hand up just at the last second there. Any
22 discussion? Are we prepared to go to question?

23 Thank you. Any opposition to the
24 resolution? Are there any abstentions to the resolution?
25 Seeing and hearing neither the resolution is carried.

1 Thank you.

2 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

3 TYRONE MCNEIL: So just a quick update
4 on what's going to take place the rest of the day. Should
5 have you out of here by 2:30, we're having a really short
6 lunch, like a 15-minute lunch. We've got three more agenda
7 items. We have two additional resolutions that I think
8 they've been circulated out to chiefs, or just about to
9 be. One on the support for the Mi'kmaq and another one on
10 homeless and housing. So those should be fairly straight
11 forward. So encouraging you to take a really brief lunch
12 we'll reconvene as close to 12:30 as we possibly can. And
13 we'll carry on with the agenda concluding very close to
14 two o'clock.

15 So again, don't sign out. Can you turn your
16 camera off to keep muted and whatnot, but you'll have to
17 go through the whole registration process if you do sign
18 out. So I look to Debra Baker to bless the food, Debra.

19 (LUNCH BLESSING)

20 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Debra. So
21 we'll reconvene at 12:30. Thank you.

22 (Track 17)

23 TYRONE MCNEIL: Welcome back, everyone.
24 We're a little bit beyond the 12:35, but we're pretty
25 close. I hope that wasn't too abbreviated for you,

1 especially if you elders and those of you that might be
2 looking after health conditions, such as diabetes, like
3 it's something we'd have to reconsider for next time,
4 because typically we try to get you out the door early on
5 day two, because you're traveling, but in a ZOOM world,
6 you may not be traveling as quickly. So we may, for the
7 next meeting, we may revisit the time we take for lunch
8 and the time we end on the second day in particular.

9 So our next agenda item is the self-defence
10 for Indigenous women and action in calling for justice
11 with Melissa Moses, your Union's ladies rep. But before we
12 go to Melissa, I believe elder Amelia wanted to start us
13 off with a song. Am I right? Elder?

14 AMELIA WASHINGTON: Yes. Yes. Good
15 afternoon. It's so good to see all of you on ZOOM. I just
16 want to acknowledge all the traditional territories that
17 our meetings and all our chiefs are on. I'd like to
18 support our women's rep in a prayer song.

19 (PRAYER SONG)

20 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Elder.
21 Amelia, thank you so much. So we'll turn it over to
22 Melissa.

23 **SELF DEFENSE FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND ACTION IN CALLING**
24 **FOR JUSTICE**

25 MELISSA MOSES: Hi, can everybody hear

1 me okay?

2 TYRONE MCNEIL: Yes.

3 MELISSA MOSES: Can you see me? Are you
4 listening? Elder Amelia, thank you for that, because I was
5 really nervous coming into this talk, it's not an easy
6 topic.

7 Yeah, when you bring in our language and
8 when you bring in our culture, it's really empowering. And
9 I do want to -- I don't think anybody had read this
10 comment that Amelia had wrote yesterday in the chat. She
11 had said it's important to empower communities, bring back
12 ceremonial practices for water, land, salmon and berry
13 ceremonies. I've heard from other elders that there's a
14 ceremony for everything. And we talk about how there's a
15 lack of salmon, lack of moose and that sort of thing. And
16 we never really spoke about bringing back ceremony, salmon
17 ceremonies and that sort of thing. That might be something
18 that we should bring back to our communities and discuss
19 that. That plays a huge part. But for those who don't know
20 who I am my name is Melissa Moses. I'm the newly elected
21 women's rep as of February, the end of February.

22 I'm also the owner and chief instructor of
23 Nicola Valley Muay Thai and Self-defense here in the
24 Merritt area. My mom is Verna Charters Moses, she's
25 originally from the Upper Nicola Indian band. And my

1 grandparents are Willy Charters and Katie Larshel Charters
2 and she's from the Bridgeport area and my dad is Robert
3 Moses. My grandparents are Antoine Moses who's from the
4 Lower Nicola Indian band. And my grandmother is Rose
5 Oppenheim Moses who's originally from the Coldwater Indian
6 band. So I'm speaking to you from my studio here on my
7 family's property here in Merritt. So I'm in Nlka'pamux
8 and Syilx territory. I don't even -- it's so hard to talk
9 because it's not easy for me to talk about without getting
10 emotional.

11 Our culture isn't just the old ways, the
12 old days. We have culture that makes us who we are today,
13 but there's also what goes on today. If we look around us,
14 there's cultures on display every day and it's going to
15 sound a little dark coming from me about this, because
16 what I'm saying is culture is on display every day from
17 family violence, domestic violence, alcoholism, drug
18 abuse, gangs, human trafficking, sexual abuse, sexual
19 child abuse, suicide, incest, corruption, missing and
20 murdered. We have drug overdose. We have deaths from
21 alcohol poisoning. This is also our culture today. Our
22 culture now.

23 There was a chief earlier, I'm sorry, I
24 forget your name. You mentioned our future is in our hands
25 and our jurisdiction and it's so, so true.

1 When I got elected in, I didn't know
2 exactly what I was getting into. Nobody really gives you a
3 gives you a handbook on what it is expected of a woman's
4 rep. But I have listened a lot to a lot of ladies and a
5 lot of women have come across my path in many ways. And
6 one of them was Gladys Radek. She, she had brought me up
7 to -- invited me to witness the Totem Pole Raising
8 ceremony that was honouring, missing murdered Indigenous
9 women and girls in Terrace. And this was supposed to mark
10 the one-year anniversary and the release of the national
11 action plan by the federal government, which we all know
12 was delayed and postponed. And they use the pandemic as an
13 excuse. But I think a lot of us, a lot of us in leadership
14 positions, I think we're not surprised about that at all.

15 They never really gave us a deadline. They
16 never really told us, okay, like, this is when this is
17 when we're going to release your national action plan.
18 This is how we're going to solve 231 calls for justice
19 they've -- I don't think we're going to see a lot of
20 action coming from them. But, chiefs, from speaking to the
21 women from your communities, they're already starting,
22 they're already taking this in their hands and they're
23 already moving forward. And I just want to remind you that
24 we had Elaine Alec, the previous women's rep, who talked
25 about the path forward. And when she went through all of

1 the communities and she spoke about and asked these, I
2 think it was 17 really hard questions. And, and the
3 communities came together, the women came together and
4 made suggestions on what should we do for an action plan.

5 So I watched some of the last year's, I
6 think it was the UBCIC's 51st Annual General Assembly day
7 one afternoon session on October 1st, 2019.

8 If you go to the YouTube, so UBCIC's
9 YouTube channel. And I think it's about 38 minutes in
10 Elaine Alec does her presentation on the path forward for
11 missing murdered Indigenous women and girls, if you're, I
12 know this type of work can be -- feels really overwhelming
13 and when they release that path forward report, it gave us
14 direction on, on what we should do.

15 I was also asked by Lynn NorthStar, who's
16 the protector of the Interior Salish missing murdered
17 Indigenous women and girls staff and ask if I can escort
18 it up to Terrace, to witness this historical event with
19 the totem pole raising ceremony. And I said, yes. And I
20 took it up there. And my experience with -- I've never had
21 an experience like this before. And I can tell you that
22 that staff was very powerful. When I was part of the
23 ceremony, witnessing the ceremony, the staff started
24 getting really heavy and I mean there's the weight of the
25 staff, but this felt like it was getting extremely heavy.

1 And throughout the ceremony and as the pole was being
2 raised up, all of a sudden it felt like the staff became
3 lighter and to feel that was really empowering because
4 what I felt was that this totem pole is healing. It's,
5 recognizing, and it's bringing awareness to everybody that
6 drives past this pole about the missing murdered
7 Indigenous women and girls. And it's not just women and
8 girls. We have our boys and our men as well, who are going
9 missing on the Highway 16. And this is something that is
10 going to be a reminder to everybody. And it's also going
11 to help us educate the non-Indigenous communities as well
12 of what's going on.

13 The other thing -- I can talk about all the
14 stuff that we need to do. I can bring up everything that
15 we need to discuss, but I think we already know what needs
16 to be done. And I'm more of an action person and I'd
17 rather bring four solutions and support solutions. And one
18 of them being like, if you look back, I don't know, it
19 should be in your kit.

20 If you look back on your kit under the
21 woman's rep, you'll come across UBCIC AGA meeting
22 submission 829, and this is what will be on their House of
23 the Moon. That's two pages. I asked Erin Mitchell to only
24 make notes, brief notes, because I know we all appreciate
25 a quick summary abbreviation, cause I know we could go

1 through a lot during these -- in these meetings, but what
2 it is, House of the Moon and Kukpi7 Judy Wilson also
3 supports this as well. She's a huge supporter of this.

4 House of the Moon, it's a hundred-hour
5 facilitator training program. It's to empower it's an
6 empowerment and self-defence pilot training program and
7 this pilot run is going to start October 16th, 2020.

8 There's going to be seven women from the US
9 and Canada who are going to participate. And right now we
10 have four positions that is open, that's available. So,
11 chiefs, if you find that this you feel that this program,
12 this pilot, this pilot training program will benefit your
13 community, please bring this back to the matriarchs in
14 your community and share this information and have them
15 contact Erin Mitchell at House to the Moon, their mission
16 is ending missing murdered Indigenous women and girls in
17 the US and Canada through empowerment and traditional
18 knowledge and education. So their core values is reviving
19 the sacred, feminine, traditional knowledge and wisdom,
20 care for the caregivers, and tribe and First Nations
21 they've claimed balance of sacred, masculine and feminine
22 us. It's spiritual empowerment and self-defence tools and
23 practices that we're going to give these ladies.

24 And coming February, March, that's when
25 we're going to start -- what we've learned from this

1 program, we're going to take it back and we're going to
2 create lesson plans and teach two different Indigenous
3 communities using our skillset. For instance, my, my
4 skillset is in martial arts self-defence. So I would take
5 the tools that I learned from this program, this train the
6 trainers program. And I would incorporate into my self-
7 defence lesson plan, which other ladies, we have some
8 ladies who are like have a social -- who are social
9 workers background. We have one of the participants is
10 going to be from school district 58, a First Nations
11 support worker who, once they've done this program,
12 they're going to incorporate into their school traditional
13 Indigenous events to heighten awareness on missing
14 Indigenous women and girls.

15 And so this is part of our prevention side
16 of it. That's where what we're doing right now, this 52nd
17 Annual General Assembly, having this done on Zoom is
18 helping our UBCIC staff learn about the technologies using
19 Zoom. And this will be once they've completed this two
20 days of launching this meeting they had, they had told me
21 that they'd be ready to start doing Zoom self-defence
22 sessions throughout BC for our First Nations bands here in
23 BC. Because one of the things that I had did mention when
24 I was running for women's rep was I wanted to teach a
25 self-defence seminar to all the First Nations bands here

1 in BC, especially our First Nations bands that are
2 affiliated with the UBCIC. And I was told that there's 232
3 First Nations bands in BC to correct me if that if there's
4 more or less, but 232, that's a lot of First Nations
5 bands.

6 And the original goal before pandemic was
7 to travel to each First Nations bands or communities and,
8 and, and be able to teach these self-defence seminars. But
9 because of pandemic we had to hold off on, on that and had
10 to cancel a lot of the self-defence tour. That was already
11 scheduled. When I was elected into women's rep, I received
12 my first email as women's representative from a First
13 Nations community. And it wasn't congratulations you're
14 the newly elected woman's rep or anything like that. It
15 was how soon could you come to our First Nations
16 communities because we have a suspected serial killer.

17 So I contacted this lady and I listened to
18 her for three hours on the phone hearing about what's
19 going on in this area where women are afraid to even leave
20 their homes, because they're scared. They're scared for
21 their life. And no one could live like that. We shouldn't
22 have to leave our homes and look over our shoulders
23 constantly. And right away, we were scheduled to come in
24 and to do a self-defence seminar in this area, but because
25 of pandemic, we had to cancel it.

1 So this is -- I was trying to figure out
2 ways, well, how can we still teach self-defence? How can
3 we still heighten the awareness during these times? And
4 House of the Moon came, I'm a strong supporter of this. It
5 came at the right time. Please, like I said, please read
6 the materials. There's more, there's House of the Moon
7 pilot launch, save the date.

8 There's a presenter proposal. Please bring
9 this back to your communities and review it because I
10 think this is going to be a tool that's going to help us.
11 It's going to be a great prevention program, and it's only
12 going to grow bigger and it's only going to get better.
13 And we need a place where we can bring all this
14 information to be able to get it out to our First Nations
15 communities. Because I've been attending all these
16 meetings and I feel like there's stuff going on over here.
17 There's stuff happening over here. I hear that there's
18 funding going to some organizations or to the same
19 organizations, but nothing is really improving. So I feel
20 like us ladies, us leadership, we need to, we need to have
21 a center point. And I really do feel that House or the
22 Moons program is going to, it's going to start something
23 not just here in Canada and the US as well, because we're
24 in this together and our future, the future of our youth,
25 of our communities, of our First Nations peoples in our

1 hands. And I really strongly believe that this is going to
2 be one of our solutions.

3 And I just want to say thank you to the
4 chiefs who, when I first got elected in, you right away
5 went to your communities and told them of the work that I
6 wanted to get done. And to bring me into the communities
7 to start the self-defence cause right away, as soon as I
8 got in, I was getting phone calls, they were scheduling.
9 So I know, I hear, I feel that you're wanting to see this
10 in our, in your First Nations communities as well. And I
11 keep hearing George Saddleman. He -- we were up in
12 Shwachman [ph] around a fire, and I remember him telling
13 me before I was, before I even moved to Canada to teach
14 self-defence. He said that our First Nations communities
15 need self-defence. And, and he told me, he said, we need
16 to go back to the root, back to where all of this is
17 started. And this is something -- I didn't quite
18 understand him then, but it makes more sense now that I
19 was listening to more and more families and women who
20 share their stories. And as a self -- as a female
21 Indigenous self-defence instructor, I haven't met another
22 one out there yet. But I heard a lot of stories and one of
23 them really sticks out to me is an Indigenous leader has,
24 throughout his lifetime, has sexually assaulted, sexually
25 abused, 160 victims. And an RCMP officer was

1 | investigating these 160 victims. And he broke down crying
2 | to one of the victims because it was so overwhelming. One
3 | pedophile affected 160 Indigenous lives. And out of those
4 | 160 there's only three that are alive today that are
5 | living today. The other victims either committed suicide,
6 | went into drug abuse, alcoholism, or died of overdose or
7 | died of alcohol poisoning, or have gone missing and
8 | murdered. And when we think back on this how did that even
9 | start? How did they even get into drugs? How did they get
10 | into alcohol? Why did they commit suicide? Was it because
11 | of one man that affected and traumatize them for life? And
12 | our First Nations communities, didn't have the health and
13 | wellness centers that is needed in our communities.

14 | Because I hear that a lot from a lot of our
15 | women who are working for organizations and who are in --
16 | who are very passionate about the work they do in their
17 | communities. And they all say the same thing, health and
18 | wellness centers. We need health and wellness centers in
19 | our First Nations communities. And they don't need to all
20 | be the same because each First Nations community has their
21 | different ways for healing and wellness, but 160 lives
22 | affected by one person.

23 | We hear of all the victims, but we don't
24 | talk about the perpetrators. It is such a hush hush topic.
25 | We don't talk about it. Nobody wants to talk about it. I

1 was like, oh yeah, she was sexually abused. Or she was
2 raped, blah, blah, blah. But by who? How come we don't
3 talk about by who? How come we don't start heightening
4 awareness by talking to our community members and letting
5 them know, watch out for that guy, watch out for that
6 woman because they're, they've sexually abused children or
7 it -- how come we don't talk about these difficult topics?

8 And why is it that when these issues are
9 brought to our attention, as leadership, why are we not
10 making an impact? Why are we not seeing to the safety of
11 our communities? Instead, what I hear is they keep
12 brushing it under the rug. I've heard that quite a bit.
13 It's like they don't care. They keep brushing it under the
14 rug. And if we have families that are coming forward to
15 chief and council meetings, and they're saying that, you
16 know, we have a pedophile who sexually abused women in our
17 community, our young girls in our community. Yet we invite
18 them back onto the reserve, or we invite them back into
19 the community. And these women and girls don't even leave
20 their homes or attend events anymore because their abusers
21 are back in the communities. How are we supposed to create
22 safe spaces if we can't even help our own women and girls
23 in our communities to be able to attend events?

24 Slipping it under the rug is no longer
25 working. We need to do doing the work is going to feel

1 better than fearing the work. And that is something that
2 we really need to do. We need to hold our, we need to hold
3 our leadership accountable. We need to hold us accountable
4 for the safety of our communities. And as a self-defence
5 instructor, what I've noticed when I hear stories from my
6 self-defence events, what I'm coming across is there's
7 self-defence that I teach to all women that empower women.
8 And it's based on reports throughout North America, like,
9 like through police reports. And it was broken down to
10 these specific 15 lessons for -- that was the common
11 scenarios, which I'm a huge supporter of. But what I'm
12 coming across as I'm teaching more self-defence to our
13 Indigenous communities is we need something different for
14 our self-defence.

15 What they're teaching with the non-
16 Indigenous martial arts instructors are teaching to women
17 and girls. Yes that's great. It's perfect. But us
18 Indigenous communities need something different. We have
19 different scenarios. The stuff that I was teaching, I yes,
20 it could work. But a lot of the -- a lot of the attacks, a
21 lot of the perpetrators, a lot of predators they're in our
22 own communities. We need to be able to teach our young and
23 our youth to watch out for people in our own communities,
24 as families, friends, families of friends, because they're
25 being groomed to be attacked.

1 I've had one mother who said, I'm out of
2 one of my self-defence that her child wasn't ready to hear
3 things like what I was teaching. And I told her, I said, I
4 beg to differ. Because I wish I was taught this when I was
5 younger, because I was sexually abused from a community
6 member who groomed my family when I was four years old.
7 And my family wasn't trained. Wasn't -- their awareness
8 wasn't heightened to watch out for this grooming and
9 grooming could happen in a day. It could happen in months.
10 It could happen in years. And the foster care system, oh
11 my God. That is a whole different topic on its own. Foster
12 families. That one perpetrator, the one I told you who had
13 160 victims, he was a foster parent.

14 It was the perfect way for him to target
15 our youth. So what I'm saying is our Indigenous people,
16 aren't reporting what's happening to them. We don't have
17 the numbers and the data to support this because nobody's
18 reporting it. And it's kept hush, hush. Families and
19 community members know, but we keep it quiet. It's time
20 that we start bringing up these tough topics to talk
21 about.

22 Rape kits. If we're going to, if we have
23 ladies that are going to report being sexually assaulted
24 or girls being sexually assaulted, rape kits are going to
25 support if they're going to report anything to the RCMP.

1 Rape kits aren't available at all hospitals. One of the
2 things I brought up to one of the meetings was like, how
3 come or like, could our nurses in our communities be able
4 to collect the evidence and use rape kits in our
5 communities, because by being able to do this in our own
6 healthcare systems here in our communities, we might be
7 able to encourage our women and girls to come forward and
8 collect this evidence in a safe space.

9 Another thing, and I know this was brought
10 up in Elaine Alec's path forward presentation was search
11 and rescue training is another thing, because I think we
12 all know that we can't always rely on the RCMP to do
13 search and rescue for our missing and murdered. And in
14 time is, is really important when it comes to these
15 missing. That might be something that we would need to
16 consider and how to go about doing that.

17 I'm going to ask Amelia if by chance would
18 you be able to close this presentation off with a song,
19 Amelia, because this is this was some really hard stuff to
20 talk about? If there's any questions and comments, I can
21 take those now.

22 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Melissa.
23 We'll open it up to the chiefs and delegates and any
24 comments you may have before turning to elder Amelia.

25 Chief Don and then Kukpi7.

1 **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

2 DON TOM: You are. Thank you, Mr.
3 Chairman. Thank you to Melissa, our women's representative
4 for sharing today.

5 One of the things that I know in my life
6 experience is when someone shows us vulnerability and
7 shows us that it's OK to show your emotions and it's okay
8 to carry experience in it you know sometimes when we've
9 been through situations, the only ones who feel this way.
10 But I certainly want to express, Melissa, my deep
11 gratitude for the work that you're doing and for accepting
12 the work that you have taken on.

13 I had the fortunate chance of phoning
14 Melissa over the COVID period, I think, or I think it was
15 maybe in June or May and had a discussion with her and
16 just about life and just about how things are going for
17 her. And I think she was living out of a van at the time.
18 But certainly I, I appreciate the work that you bring to
19 the Union, Melissa, and I look forward to the work that
20 we'll be doing here with you. And I just wanted to also
21 share that we had planned on Melissa doing a self-defence
22 for the chiefs and due to COVID, it just wasn't able to
23 come forward. But we certainly look forward to when we can
24 safely come together, maybe without social distancing
25 mitigations to, to have that opportunity for some self-

1 defence for any of our chiefs or any of our membership to
2 have that opportunity. And I certainly think when I
3 watched your videos on Facebook, Melissa, and I see you
4 using the -- and forgive me, I don't know the terms, the -
5 - when you're kicking the guy I'll just make up my own
6 terms, I guess. But certainly, I admire your strength and
7 I admire your courage. I admire your ability to connect
8 with people. And just to your, your I just want to say I
9 admire that and thank you for the work.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wish guys could be.

11 TYRONE MCNEIL: Yeah. Kukpi7.

12 JUDY WILSON: Thanks, Melissa. And
13 especially speaking from your heart on this very difficult
14 issue that affect many of our women and girls and
15 including our men and our boys across -- in BC and across
16 Canada and across Turtle Island and finding a way forward,
17 I think, you know, get it coming from, you know, that
18 grieving and victimization and moving forward with
19 solutions and action, I think, is what's needed now. And
20 we can see that with the different movements that
21 communities are doing. They're not waiting for the
22 government. They're not waiting for chief and council, and
23 they're not waiting for anyone to validate that things
24 need to be done. They're doing it because with the federal
25 government dragging their heels on the national inquiry

1 and doing it as an Indigenous, like not doing it as
2 Indigenous led, but doing it government led, I think
3 that's a clear indicator we have to do this, even though
4 we sought justice with those calls to action and the
5 resources aren't there yet, they really need to be there.
6 And we continue to advocate that, you know, as the First
7 Nations Leadership Council, especially the Union BC Indian
8 Chiefs, and we meet monthly with the coalition, the
9 coalition group. And I think that's important for missing
10 murdered women and continue that work, but also the House
11 of the Moon, the new programs that are emerging virtually
12 across North America and globally we're going to see them
13 bringing them right to communities with no charge, the
14 people that are, you know, giving up their time to be able
15 to do these presentations and teachings and sharing. So
16 that circle will grow stronger and stronger, especially
17 with, with you being involved and with the work that
18 you're doing and the spirit you're bringing to, to not
19 only to the Union BC Indian Chiefs, but all of the
20 communities that, that are members to the Union of BC
21 Indian Chiefs and more because that -- you've got a really
22 great heart and you've got a really strong courage and
23 presence about you and I know you're going to do really
24 well at anything you do. And I know you said you were
25 nervous before you started it, but you came across very

1 powerful, very strong, and I just applaud all the work you
2 do. And I'll be there any time you need the text, day or
3 night or the work that you want me to support you in or
4 connections because you're going to do great things, I can
5 feel it and I know it. So I know, and I know we're going
6 to do the training that Chief Don's talking about. So
7 Chief Don, and I'll be there. If there's nobody else in
8 the room we will be there, and we'll do it. Thank you.

9 TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay. Thank you.
10 Kukstemc, Kukpi7. Kukpi7 Lee.

11 LEE SPAHAN: Thanks, Tyrone. I guess,
12 first of all, I'd like to congratulate Amelia and Melissa
13 for their new roles at UBCIC, I hold my hands up to you.
14 I'd like to thank Amelia for that song at the beginning.
15 Very powerful.

16 You're doing a great job, Melissa. Like Don
17 said, your words are powerful and it's good to know.

18 One thing that caught my attention in your
19 speech was search and rescue. And, you know, we don't just
20 need it here out on the land we need it in the cities,
21 too, when we lose a family member in this city, we don't
22 know who to turn to. We don't know who to ask, because
23 like you said, the RCMP or other police detachments don't
24 really offer up too much help.

25 So I'd like to say, thank you for your

1 presentation and I'll support you any way I can. And I am
2 only a phone call away, Melissa. Kukstemc. Thank you.

3 TYRONE MCNEIL: kukstemc, Kukpi7. Any
4 other comments?

5 MELISSA MOSES: So one self-defence when
6 I'm asked the number one self-defence that I would teach
7 anybody. And a lot of times people think it's some, it's a
8 physical move, but it's not what it is actually -- you
9 could actually do it right now. I want you all to just
10 like hunch your shoulders over. All right. Look down.
11 What's the first things that come to mind and you can
12 unmute yourself and just share what are the first words
13 that come to mind when you're in this position? You're
14 hunched over looking down. Judy, what is the first words
15 that come to your mind?

16 JUDY WILSON: Vulnerable and I guess
17 vulnerable.

18 MELISSA MOSES: Yeah, a lot of things I
19 hear is like, I don't feel very powerful and they have
20 that victim mentality. Now, what I want you to do is just
21 pull your shoulders back, head up high. All right take a
22 deep breath. Now, what are the first words that come to
23 mind when you're in this position?

24 JUDY WILSON: Exhilarated and stronger.

25 MELISSA MOSES: Exactly. So one of the

1 things that an attacker normally looks for is one, are you
2 distracted? And two, do you have the victim mentality?
3 They actually have done research on different, different
4 people who've attacked and they're showing videos and
5 they're showing pictures the same picture, the same videos
6 and they were asked to choose who they would attack, who
7 their victims would be. And they didn't always choose the
8 small, tiny person or the short person that they could
9 overpower physically. They actually chose even men tall
10 men and, and they were, and then the they're asked, why
11 would they choose them. One, he's distracted; and two, he
12 walks around like a victim. I can overpower him mentally
13 and emotionally. And so that's one of the things, and I
14 don't know if you've ever noticed like watch the youth and
15 the people in your communities and just see how are they
16 carrying themselves? You'll see a lot of youth with their
17 with their hoods over their heads and their headphones in
18 they're looking down, or they have their, they have their
19 sleeves tucked in and they're not carrying themselves very
20 strong. And that's where we need to show, we need to lead
21 by example as leadership, and we need to encourage our
22 youth. So shoulders back, head up high and always be aware
23 of your surroundings. And that's the number one thing that
24 will take you off the victim list. Thank you.

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks, Melissa. As you

1 | were saying it occurred to me watching a commercial of a
2 | young basketball star walking out onto the court with his
3 | head down and this veteran comes along and puts his chin
4 | up. And his whole demeanor changes as soon as he does
5 | that. So directly related to your comment.

6 | And if I could, from the chair's
7 | perspective, I've been here for a little while. Like we've
8 | gone in my term here, there's been three or four ladies
9 | reps and each and every one of them started off exactly
10 | the same position as you, Melissa, where you're charged
11 | energetic to get involved. And then the weight of it hits
12 | you certainly after you become aware of what's being
13 | involved. So I really encourage the Union, the executive
14 | and staff to work with you and I think it's a good timing
15 | now that elder Amelia is here, cause you're probably
16 | related one way or another with the elder and certainly
17 | through a spirituality and ceremony, you come up with a
18 | safety mechanism for you as the Women's rep, because
19 | there's so much spiritual weight on you put on you by
20 | ladies and the young women and children, in particular
21 | that, you know, it's important for the Union to assist you
22 | in looking after yourself in a way that's spiritually and
23 | culturally appropriate for you because each of our women's
24 | rep tends to come from a different nation, but it's
25 | important to connect to your own spirituality so that

1 you're looked after spiritually, you're brushed off,
2 you're bathed or whatever it is, you're smudged, whatever
3 it is your spirituality does, because it's an important
4 job you're doing. And we need to look after you to allow
5 you to do as an effective job as you possibly can, because
6 this is a critically important position on behalf of the
7 Union, in our in-person meetings quite often, if chiefs
8 seem a little bit distracted when a woman's rep was
9 saying, sharing her report, I called every chief's
10 attention and everybody in the room to stop what you're
11 doing put down your phones, pay attention, because this is
12 important to us as an organization. So nobody argues that
13 anytime I raised that from the Chair's perspective. So the
14 position is obviously extremely valuable, important to the
15 Union. But I encourage everybody look at that context of
16 how do we look after the lady's rep, the woman's rep maybe
17 a little bit differently than the rest of us in terms of
18 what it is that we do, because the nature of your work it
19 hit so much to the home, to the heart, to your spiritual
20 wellbeing, that it's important that we look after you. So
21 I leave that for your consideration. And as Melissa
22 suggested, elder Amelia, we will turn to you.

23 AMELIA WASHINGTON: I so much appreciate
24 Melissa's presentation today. And I have -- she has
25 reached out to me for spiritual support...

1 Okay. I just wanted to say that our women's
2 rep, Melissa, has reached out to me and we actually have
3 built a personal sweat lodge on her parents' property. And
4 so we're looking forward to having a sweat together and
5 giving her guidance. Prior to the presentation, I asked
6 her to brush herself down with [Native language], which is
7 our fir and to sit upon it just, you know, to, to really
8 let that medicine brush her down. So I have -- I'm really
9 blessed that she was open to receiving spiritual guidance,
10 you know, so I just really just really find her, her
11 openness and her enthusiasm for all concerns very awesome.
12 You know I'd like to acknowledge our survivors of
13 residential school. You know, one of the things that I you
14 know, when my song came out about 20 years ago, I guess
15 with the guidance of my late Auntie Janet Charters, you
16 know, she encouraged me to bring out my song.

17 Yes.

18 TYRONE MCNEIL: Sorry your volume has
19 gone down again. You might have a weak network. You might
20 want to turn your video off so we can hear you more
21 clearly if that's okay, Elder.

22 AMELIA WASHINGTON: Okay. My video off

23 TYRONE MCNEIL: Can still see you, but
24 you did come in a lot louder there too, though.

25 AMELIA WASHINGTON: Okay. I just want to

1 just acknowledge Melissa and her willingness to access
2 spiritual guidance and you know, also comment on the, you
3 know, acknowledging the survivors of residential school.
4 My late Auntie Janet Charters was one that was very
5 instrumental in me, you know, getting the strength to sing
6 in our language. I always acknowledge that.

7 I've been on my healing path now for about
8 20 years regarding -- as being a survivor of residential
9 school. And then, you know, even though I had that many
10 years of hating, you know, when they unveiled that list of
11 the children who didn't return back home, that really
12 affected me because I had three siblings that didn't
13 return back to Nooaitch. And, you know, those are things
14 that you know, our communities need to hear, and our
15 leadership need to know that it still impacts us.

16 The other is the lack of response from the
17 RCMP. You know, we had a lady missing a while ago, and
18 when I called into to report that I seen a coat in the
19 middle of the river, it was quickly brushed. And they said
20 that she couldn't possibly have made it down to Nooaitch
21 River. And I was really, you know, I sought the band -- I,
22 I let them know that there's a coat in the middle of the
23 river that shouldn't be there, and I let the RCMP know
24 right away. And I didn't get so much as an interview or
25 follow up. So, you know, those things really need to be...

1 really need to be followed up, you know?

2 So I'd like to just acknowledge Melissa and
3 just do one of the women's warrior songs for her to lift
4 your spirit.

5 (WARRIOR SONG)

6 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. Thank you so
7 much, elder Thank you, Melissa. And again, encouraging you
8 to look after yourself as you carry on such an important,
9 responsible job for the Union, Melissa.

10 So that we will move on, but just a quick
11 housekeeping piece. I've just been informed that our youth
12 representative Jade Baxter has been listening online. We
13 don't have the youth update on this agenda, but we
14 certainly will for the next Chief's Council agenda. So at
15 that we're moving into advanced negotiations, separate and
16 distinct from BCTC with Chief Don, and there's information
17 in your kit, under the negotiations title.

18 (Track 18)

19 **ADVANCING NEGOTIATIONS SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM BCTC**

20 DON TOM: Virtual like this because
21 I'm talking to a camera and I'm talking to our technical
22 staff and it's just it.. I should say we are doing it in
23 stride membership. We are doing it in stride.

24 Yeah. Thank you, Ty. I'll move on. I
25 digress.

1 I'd like to firstly, again, acknowledge
2 that we are in the territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and
3 Tsleil-Waututh. And thank you for being so generous to
4 have us do the work here. And thank you again, Debra, for
5 doing the opening prayer and the prayer for the meal
6 today,

7 I'll be outlining UBCIC's work to date on
8 improving and advancing the policies and practices of
9 negotiations and agreement making with the Crown. This
10 work is centered on ensuring that all negotiation policies
11 and practice by the federal and provincial align with the
12 UN Declaration and are based on the recognition and
13 implementation of the inherent title and rights of
14 indigenous nations.

15 The Union is currently working on draft
16 terms of reference for UBCIC and BC engagement on
17 principled framework for negotiations distinct from the
18 BCTC process. Just to provide a bit of background and
19 context. The BC First Nations have expressed a strong
20 desire to improve the policies and practices of
21 negotiations with the Crown, particularly those found in
22 the BCTC treaty process so that they are nation-to-nation
23 consent based and respectful of the inherent title and
24 rights of all indigenous peoples. The resolution 2016-30,
25 the Chiefs in Assembly endorsed a draft UBCIC political

1 and legal action plan titled Moving Beyond the BCTC
2 Process and into Proper Negotiations Based on Recognition
3 and Implementation of Aboriginal Title and Rights. Wow,
4 which included an action item to develop, announce, and
5 advance the implementation of a new detailed approach to
6 negotiations and agreement, making grounded in the
7 recognition and implementation of Aboriginal title and
8 rights, the proper title and rights holders that can
9 benefit all First Nations in BC.

10 Excuse me, that was an empty cup

11 As part of this work... I do have water here.
12 As part of this work on May 22nd to the 23rd, 2019 UBCIC
13 held a symposium implementing our title and rights
14 upholding self-determination through...

15 Did I say this already? Deja vu. Pardon me?
16 Consent based negotiations and agreement making with the
17 focus on emerging developments in negotiations and
18 agreement making and in particular agreements with the BC
19 government outside of the British Columbia treaty process.

20 The UBCIC negotiations symposium, the
21 specific goal of this symposium was to inform the
22 development of draft principles that may be considered by
23 the Chiefs Council to be elements of a new negotiations
24 and agreement approach outside of the BCTC process.
25 Consequently, draft a report called Implementing Our Title

1 and Rights Upholding Self-Determination Through Nation to
2 Nation Consent Based Negotiations and Agreement Making was
3 produced.

4 This report provides the brief thematic
5 summary of the dialogue at the symposium, including the
6 key shifts, successes and challenges that First Nations
7 are experiencing in negotiations. It also provides a set
8 draft principles that may be considered in the work going
9 forward. The draft principles contained in the symposium
10 report was shared with the UBCIC Chiefs Council who by a
11 UBCIC resolution 2019-23, endorsed them as a starting
12 point for negotiations and agreements based on recognition
13 and implementation of inherent title and rights in the
14 standards of the UN Declaration. The Chiefs Council
15 forwarded the draft symposium report and principles to the
16 Ministry of Indigenous Relations. In response Scott
17 Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and
18 Reconciliation sent correspondence on September 30th, 2019
19 expressing a willingness to engage in a collaborative
20 dialogue with UBCIC on the concepts outlined in resolution
21 2019-23. And to discuss the negotiations principles that
22 the UBCIC endorsed, which will assist in informing the
23 Provinces negotiation approach moving forward in
24 conjunction with other guidance, including the Draft 10
25 principles that guided the province of BC's relationship

1 with Indigenous peoples.

2 So where we are now. Our current status as
3 of February 20th, UBCIC Chiefs Council, the Chiefs
4 directed the UBCIC executive to advance a set of
5 negotiation principles that the province may consider
6 adopting for negotiations with First Nations, based on the
7 negotiation principles approved by the UBCIC Chiefs
8 Council through the Resolution 2019-23, which are
9 consistent with the UN Declaration. The chiefs also
10 directed the UBCIC executive to work with legal counsel to
11 begin putting together options for negotiators forum for
12 those outside of the BCTC process. Thus, we have begun
13 drafting, a draft, a terms of reference that will guide a
14 UBCIC and BC engagement on principled framework for
15 negotiations distinct from the BCTC process.

16 Found in your kit, the draft terms of
17 reference outlines, the scope of the work to be undertaken
18 by UBCIC and BC negotiation table. That includes engaging
19 in substantive dialogue to prepare a set of draft
20 negotiation principles for negotiators to follow and
21 engaging in negotiation, separate in again, distinct from
22 the BCTC process, considering the creation of a forum for
23 any nations in BC who are focused on achieving the
24 recognition and implementation of their title and rights
25 through negotiations distinct and separate from the BCTC

1 process.

2 So I guess some things that we're looking
3 for or what sort of issues and challenges need to be
4 raised during the engagement with the Province around
5 negotiations, if a negotiators forum for those outside of
6 the BCTC processes develop, what sort of key topics and
7 themes need to be addressed and what are your nation's
8 priorities when it comes to negotiations and agreement
9 making with the government.

10 So, these are the questions that I pose to
11 our membership today in this dialogue, but we had wanted
12 to provide the update and just the current status of where
13 we are in drafting these principles. Certainly, I could
14 benefit using a lot more acronyms in my update.

15 TYRONE MCNEIL: You'll have time to
16 practice that Chief.

17 DON TOM: Okay.

18 TYRONE MCNEIL: Any questions or
19 comments from the Chiefs and delegates starting to Kukpi7
20 Judy?

21 **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

22 JUDY WILSON: Yes. Thank you, Chief Don,
23 for not using acronyms. I think a lot of this work also
24 aligns to the UN Declaration and the work we're doing and
25 the presentation yesterday, where we're looking at

1 alignment of laws and implementation of Bill 41 and in the
2 Bill 41 is the section seven agreements, which we have to
3 look at that process. And it hasn't been yet established I
4 guess, but we have to look and see what reforms that would
5 bring to the Attorney General's office is ultimately the
6 agreements go to their office and under the BCTC there's
7 the other process set out and which was reaffirmed through
8 the 2019 negotiators directive policy. So, we also need to
9 look at the BC 10 principles. As I mentioned yesterday,
10 Minister Scott Fraser said they're draft, but they're
11 appearing in agreements like Lake Babine. So, in other
12 agreements where those BC 10 principles are being used.
13 And as we know, they were mirrored from the federal
14 government 10 principles, which don't go far enough. They
15 only aim to so, that was one of the words used in it.

16 And the other one is you know when we were
17 talking about the title and rights in outstanding in BC
18 and the outside the BCTC process, the burden of proof, the
19 burden of consultation, the burden of consent, all of
20 those new legal cases that came out the Tsilhqot'in and
21 even the Delgamuukw, Haida and Taku, they set out up
22 strength of claims, which is still being used by the
23 Province. And I remember when the environmental
24 legislation was coming out, that was a real sticking point
25 for us was it still relies on the strength of claims

1 process. Which puts arduous and costly research and burden
2 of proof onto our nations.

3 I think, I know we do specific claims here
4 at the Union, but now with the new emerging UN Declaration
5 and a lot of the work nations are doing on indigenous
6 laws, I think are really important. I think there has to
7 be a way look at how we conduct this broader research
8 that's needed now. And also, how we come up with our plans
9 for our nations, because really what it is is -- we have
10 our inherent indigenous laws on the land, and then you
11 have the provincial and then the federal. So, then it's
12 creating that space for it. I attended the symposium. I
13 think it was a good start on discussions on proper title
14 holders on consent and a wide range of issues that are
15 facing what you just reported out, Chief Don. But I think
16 we really need to have, you know, really further work on
17 it. Those are my comments for now, but this is really
18 important and key.

19 So I'm glad it made it on the agenda. And I
20 really do support additional work in this area. And I
21 wanted to say, I think it was a former Chief Darrel Bob
22 from Statliem Nation that brought this to the Union a
23 couple of years ago, maybe almost three now. And he had
24 resolutions that he kept saying, we really need to get
25 this work done and we are doing it. And it just needs to

1 be a lot more effort.

2 I just want to thank a lot of the UBCIC and
3 chief staff and that did all this work and we're headed in
4 the right way. We just need to pull it together, be more
5 concise and advance this work because the other tables are
6 doing their work. And there's so much the federal and
7 provincial government are doing. And we need to be just as
8 diligent, thank you.

9 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7. Just
10 responding to Councillor Terry's comment on indigenous own
11 laws implemented. The first and second principles of the
12 draft principles speak exactly to that, Terry. Kukpi7
13 Wayne.

14 WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Yeah. Thank you,
15 Tyrone. I was looking at this on the agenda and I was
16 trying to understand the context in terms of how we're
17 going to move forward with this whole process, simply
18 because negotiation has been a very sort of problematic
19 process in British Columbia. Simply because the mandates
20 that were received by those tables where the Doctrine of
21 Discovery, terra nullius, et cetera.

22 Now, I'm trying to understand if we're
23 talking about, and I know what you're talking about
24 outside of the BC treaty process, but the government
25 doesn't treat it like that. They treat it all the same.

1 The Crown is the Crown is the Crown, whether it's the
2 Provincial Crown or whether it's the Federal Crown, it's
3 still the Crown. And so, I'm trying to grasp how we are
4 going to strategize and move this forward, simply because
5 in the context of negotiations, they frame it in the
6 context.

7 Like I said earlier, common law, everything
8 they frame is in the context of rule of law, et cetera.
9 But we've noticed really clearly that the governments do
10 not pay attention to rule of law, Supreme court decisions,
11 or they pick and choose. And what they continue to try to
12 do is to minimize our ability to fully function in terms
13 of our actual jurisdiction and our sovereignty over our
14 lands. As an example, there is no Crown land in British
15 Columbia. It's all unceded Indian land. The more... every
16 time I go to the Crown, so I tell them that as not Crown
17 land, you say it is it's alleged Crown land that is stolen
18 from our people. And just as a starting point, when you
19 start talking to these guys, because they have a whole
20 sort of racist bent on everything that we have to claim
21 and prove ownership, which is just total nonsense.

22 We were working on... We were working on a
23 reverse onus, but that got, got waylay where we were
24 talking about for the Crown show us how you got title.
25 Where's the paper that says you have title, show us rather

1 | than us going to them with this whole BS of strength of
2 | claim. All of that stuff is really problematic in the
3 | context of negotiations. So I'm just trying to understand
4 | how can we begin to look at a process that comes more in
5 | line with DRIPA and international principles of
6 | negotiation, in this case, government-to-government
7 | nation-to-nation with Canada, and how do we do that
8 | effectively versus where we're out now, the negotiation
9 | process is really what is the mandate now. You know I'm
10 | trying to understand that because we're at different
11 | tables with the Province and they may be saying all these
12 | wonderful things, but on the ground, they've not a changed
13 | a damn thing.

14 | In fact, it has gotten worse in terms of
15 | how they continue to stall, how they continue to put
16 | roadblocks in front of us. They develop all these
17 | bureaucratic processes and they call it negotiations and
18 | it's not. I think we really need to begin to think about
19 | this, and I appreciate the work that you're doing in terms
20 | of process. I think that these should be really clear that
21 | what we're doing in terms of where we're going into the
22 | negotiation process. I think outside of the BCTC and all
23 | of those things, I don't see it like that. I think that
24 | negotiations are all the same because you're acting and
25 | negotiating with a Crown government that still is enmeshed

1 and embedded in the Doctrine of Discovery, where they
2 basically say, we discovered you. And I think in the
3 Supreme court, they struck down terra nullius where they
4 said the land was empty.

5 So now the Crown at least acknowledges us,
6 but they still say that the Doctrine of Discovery that
7 their laws do apply. I don't know, I'm just kind of just
8 wondering out loud where are we going to go with this
9 because it's very problematic when you start talking to
10 the Crown, whether it's the Federal Crown, the big Crown
11 or the little Crown in terms of British Columbia. I think
12 the course of showing very clearly the Crown is the Crown
13 is the Crown. So, when you're engaging these guys,
14 especially around alleged Crown land, I think that's the
15 language we have to start using is that BC is unceded
16 land, it's all Indian land.

17 I think we have to start moving in that
18 direction, that's the... when we talked about this in 1980,
19 with the Aboriginal rights position paper by the Union of
20 BC Indian Chiefs. We embedded in our child welfare
21 legislation as five principles of Indian government, all
22 around land resources and jurisdiction and lawmaking
23 authority. I think that's what we have to really start
24 thinking about in terms of where we're moving the process
25 with the Crown.

1 So, thank you, Chief Tom. And I think that
2 we need dialogue. We need to see where this is going to
3 go, because I think it's really important work, but how do
4 we begin to engage that process to move it forward? So,
5 thanks again for the opportunity to respond to your
6 presentation.

7 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7. Don.

8 DON TOM: Thank you, Kukpi7. And I
9 think you've made some good points.

10 I think just in terms of where we currently
11 are in the case that it is currently with BC, but I think
12 I would suggest expanding to Canada as well in some of our
13 principled framework here in having this dialogue, and as
14 you mentioned, the Crown, the federal Crown, the
15 provincial Crown, and I think Canada has a place here as
16 well. The reason it's a with BC because BC is the one
17 entering into the more expansive agreements outside of a
18 BC treaty process. Canada hasn't come to the table.

19 So, and I think of the negotiations the
20 principles, I think is part of the larger works that we
21 had discussed at the symposium. I think it's, as Kukpi7
22 Wilson had that there is more work to have go into this.
23 And I agree that I think we do have to have more dialogue
24 on this and when it comes to our inherent rights and
25 title, and if they're having discussions about policies

1 and not including all First Nations, and I think there
2 should be a standard that the Crown should operate by of
3 how they have these discussions.

4 TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay. Kukpi7.

5 JUDY WILSON: Yeah. I just wanted to
6 share those frustrations. I just want to just say through
7 the court system, as you know, with Aboriginal title,
8 we've seen with Tsilhqot'in and the cost of it, that the
9 BC court cases are still based on all the evidence that
10 you need to go through the courts. And if you even go
11 through the negotiations that Chief Don Tom's talking
12 about, it's a consultation, accommodation process, and
13 it's still based on strength of claims. And then if you
14 agree on the recognition tables to have exploratory
15 discussions on title and rights they are still not being
16 recognized fully as they should be. And they still use all
17 these existing tools that are out there. And that's where
18 I was saying a lot of the changes need to happen, and
19 there will be some through the Bill 41, but there'll be a
20 lot of pushing on the implementation of those minimum
21 human rights standards and some of the international law
22 that a lot of it I think is you're right, is our
23 indigenous inherent laws and our title and our rights are
24 connected with those indigenous laws.

25 And that's what I was saying. It's the work

1 we need to do in research and, and evidence building, and
2 also changing this legislation it's really problematic
3 with the existing, comprehensive claims inherent right to
4 self-government. And then also the processes they have in
5 place for accommodation and consultation. And we're saying
6 elevating the language through free, prior informed
7 consent under the UN Declaration.

8 I do believe we do need to have a follow-up
9 session to that symposium so we could be in the room to
10 discuss what that action plan is going to be and also what
11 kind of follow-up and gaps and key issues that we need to
12 do to advance the work of the nations. We're saying we're
13 standing up our jurisdiction for children and family. We
14 say we're working on our indigenous health towards our
15 jurisdiction, we're not there yet. Getting there and also
16 on education and all those are not full jurisdiction yet.
17 And we need to have our title and rights and our
18 governance in place to be able to do that for our nations.
19 So, thank you for all the comments.

20 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpi7. If I
21 can remind the Chiefs and delegates that in your kit,
22 there's a document called implementing our title and
23 rights, upholding self-recrimination through nation-to-
24 nation and consent based negotiations and agreement
25 making. And in there, there is 11 principles that are

1 posed in the symposium.

2 So, if now we're talking beyond those
3 principles, we need a mechanism to formally adopt those
4 principles as the mandate for going forward but right in
5 the same document. And this speaks specifically to Kukpi7
6 Wayne's comments and going forward is developing a
7 strategy for advancing and implementing the principles,
8 develop an action plan for transforming negotiations,
9 advancing approaches to capacity development that support
10 First Nations, further implementing a jurisdiction. So,
11 there is a process there that I think, Kukpi7 Wayne,
12 that's the next stage of moving into is now agreeing on
13 these principles. Here's a way forward. Here's a process
14 going forward to get some traction and some ground with
15 both orders of government.

16 With that I'm not seeing any other
17 questions or comments coming up on the participant list,
18 but I'll go back to chief Don for concluding remarks.

19 DON TOM: Yes. Thank you. Thank you,
20 Thank you. I just wanted to, again, thank you to our great
21 staff here at the Union for doing a large part of this
22 work and engaging with BC. And I know it can be difficult
23 at many times when the Province has their positions, but
24 again, just appreciative of our team here and the work
25 that we have done and appreciative of the chief's work

1 that they've done at the symposium. And I think also
2 providing a mandate forward. And if we do have the mandate
3 in the 2019 resolution to have a follow-up meeting.

4 I think along the lines of Kukpi7 Christian
5 as to where do we go from here, I think I would suggest
6 that we could host another, maybe a zoom session with the
7 Chiefs after this, as we do have the mandate to have a
8 follow-up meeting. I think there is a room for that. And
9 just also to note that the membership did approve the
10 principles through resolution in the 2019 one as well.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair

12 TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. So,
13 we're going to move right onto our final agenda item for
14 the day. And that's the New Relationship Trust with Hugh
15 Breaker and Walter Schneider, you'll find a PowerPoint in
16 your digital kit under presentations.

17 (Track 19)

18 **NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST**

19 HUGH BRAKER: Tyrone, can you hear me
20 okay?

21 TYRONE MCNEIL: Yes.

22 HUGH BRAKER: Thank you. [Native
23 language].

24 I want to acknowledge firstly, the land
25 that I'm sitting on today, which is the land of the Tsleil

1 Waututh people in in North Vancouver area. I also wanted
2 to thank the UBCIC for making room for us on the agenda
3 and for allowing us to make the presentation.

4 My name is Hugh Braker. I am the Chair of
5 the Board of Directors of the New Relationship Trust. I
6 was appointed by the First Nations Summit to the Board of
7 Directors and was reconfirmed as chair for the next year
8 just two weeks ago with the NRTs board of directors,
9 meeting. Miles Richardson, a Haida has been confirmed as
10 the vice chair of the board of directors for the next
11 year. And he was appointed by the First Nations Leadership
12 Council. Angela Wesley has been confirmed as the secretary
13 treasurer for the next year. She was appointed by the
14 Province of British Columbia. And of course she is a Nuu-
15 chah-nulth woman currently living in Northern BC. Our
16 other board members Byron Louis, Okanagan appointed by
17 UBCIC, Wade Grant appointed by Leadership Council is from
18 Musqueam. Liz Logan, I believe is from Fort Nelson, the
19 pointed by, I believe the BCAFN.

20 All of our board members have committee
21 work in addition to being on the board of directors. There
22 is no doubt that the NRT is taking a bit of a hit in our
23 investments this year. This is a hit that's being suffered
24 by many organizations as a result of the COVID pandemic.
25 We won't know the total effect of the COVID pandemic on

1 | our investments until the end of the fiscal year, when
2 | we're able to take a full look at it. Pretty volatile
3 | right now, for example, many of you may know that the
4 | Canadian dollar bounced about a half a cent this morning,
5 | all of that has effects on investments and other things as
6 | well.

7 | Two weeks ago, we had our strategy session
8 | with the NRT, and we stressed that we're always evaluating
9 | our initiatives and trying to plan for the future. And we
10 | confirm that nation building will remain one of the NRTs
11 | most important focus. Some of our operations have taken a
12 | hit this year as well. For example, there was no young
13 | entrepreneurs symposium, which the NRT usually co-
14 | sponsors. It was supposed to be in Montreal this year. But
15 | it's had to be canceled because of the COVID pandemic.

16 | There was no golf tournament which raises
17 | money for First Nations scholarship and bursaries this
18 | summer. It's usually a big fundraiser for us, that had to
19 | be canceled because of COVID. And our on-location staff
20 | here at our office at the Tsleil Waututh administration
21 | buildings, our beautiful new administration buildings have
22 | been reduced as well. They're just here on a rotational
23 | basis as needed. Lots of changes at the NRT because of the
24 | COVID pandemic, but I'm confident that the NRT staff and
25 | board have stepped up to the plate and implemented

1 measures, not just to keep our people safe, but to keep
2 our initiatives going in the Province of British Columbia.
3 That's been very important for us.

4 My real purpose today is to introduce you
5 to someone new. We have a new CEO at the NRT, Walter
6 Schneider. Some of you may know him. He's a chartered
7 professional accountant. He has an MBA master's in
8 business administration from Simon Fraser University. For
9 a while he was, he worked for an international investment
10 firm and he was in charge of their operations in Japan,
11 where he lived. He also was the CEO for a major First
12 Nation in British Columbia, and he was a CEO for an
13 Aboriginal organization in Vancouver for a period of time.

14 The NRT is very happy that he's chosen to
15 apply and be successful in his application for CEO of the
16 NRT. We're extremely pleased with the work thus far. He
17 was appointed this past spring. So we're really happy to
18 have him on board. We're already impressed by his
19 organization and his initiatives. And we're looking
20 forward to a good future with him. He's going to take you
21 through our presentation, the rest of our presentation
22 today. And then we'll have time for hopefully for a few
23 questions at the end.

24 So with that, I'm going to turn it over to
25 our new CEO, Walter Schneider.

1 WALTER SCHNEIDER: Thank you all for
2 the invitation.

3 Thank you for those kind words. It's a
4 pleasure to join you today on behalf of the New
5 Relationship Trust.

6 TYRONE MCNEIL: Do you have two
7 microphones on?

8 WALTER SCHNEIDER: ...it is always
9 important for us to connect with First Nation leadership
10 in BC because we don't define nations. They define us in
11 the work that we do. This is why it's a privilege today to
12 provide you with a quick update. I know you have a few
13 motions, three motions or resolutions to pass. So I know
14 it was the last presentation, so I'll keep it really
15 quick.

16 I think one of the main things I just want
17 to inform you of some key takeaways. That's part of my
18 goal today. And so without further ado, I'll just take a
19 quick look at the agenda. I believe you have it in your
20 kit or PowerPoints. So the contents, Hugh gave that
21 introduction. All I'll say is on the last page of your kit
22 my email address. So if today's discussion sparks any
23 interest in what NRT is doing please feel free to reach
24 out and we can have a conversation about initiatives
25 within your nation. What I will talk about today is just

1 to revisit the NRT strategic position, how we can support
2 First Nation nation-building. I will provide a brief
3 summary of our historical performance and also provide
4 some insights in how NRT is moving ahead, given the
5 current pandemic environment.

6 So skip ahead to -- it's not moving, but if
7 you guys can move to slide four, I guess the next slide.
8 So it's NRT, our unique strategic position.

9 Every First Nation in BC is on a different
10 path to nationhood. There's self-determination and
11 sovereignty. I think NRT, what we try to do is meet each
12 First Nation on their journey to support them wherever
13 they want to go. Some First Nations are in the BC Treaty
14 Process, some want to operate out of it. Some First
15 Nations want to incrementally move out of the *Indian Act*,
16 and some have very large ambitious goals to reach
17 sovereignty and self-government.

18 So NRT is uniquely placed because we are
19 First Nation led , we're backed by legislation, we're
20 nationhood focused. So I'll just give you an example, a
21 nation that we're supporting today reached out to us to --
22 reached out to us today to or recently just to get support
23 or to bring elders together within their community, to
24 kind of draw out their sacred stories, their traditional
25 practices, and to really capture this in video and in

1 print to help them inform their next major phase in their
2 incremental nationhood is to use that to inform their
3 policy, making all their decision makings, and they're
4 bringing elders together, paying them honorariums, and
5 we're supporting that project for them to initiate that
6 whole big exercise for them.

7 So that's just one quick example of what
8 we're doing to support First Nations and other nations
9 coming forward and wants to enhance their pandemic
10 response. So developing a bylaw to help them deal with
11 these type of situations in the future. So we're
12 supporting development of that work.

13 Another nation is building out their entire
14 bylaw enforcement department. We're supporting that
15 initiation. So anything to do with nation building if you
16 can link it back to how you're moving forward to support
17 yourself-determination and nationhood. NRT is here to
18 support that.

19 We want to become a center of excellence
20 where we not only provide a conduit of funding, but we are
21 working on a whole rebrand of who we are as far as
22 providing a repository, a site where nations could come
23 and get access to certain information. NRT, over the last
24 14 years, has supported nations on specific projects.

25 So for instance, we've supported, you know,

1 20 nations develop a membership code. So through that
2 experience, we can actually develop some best practices
3 and how nations are going through lessons learned and some
4 successes. And we can share some of that experience with
5 nations who are just starting that process. So in the
6 coming months, we're looking to build that website out and
7 it'd be a very useful resource for nations in BC.

8 So what we do, we want to support authentic
9 nation building within your own context and to help
10 subvert a colonial influence. I'm a finance guy. I'm a
11 chartered accountant by trade. I'm a big believer in that
12 the current whole financial reporting system in Canada is
13 very colonial influence in bias. It doesn't meet the needs
14 of our First Nation communities and how we are
15 communicating the financial results to our community.

16 In fact, you know, the Canadian Public
17 Accounting Standards allow for different ways of
18 reporting, but somehow we're stuck in this one method of
19 reporting like other governments. We're not like other
20 governments, we are similar in some respects, but we're
21 also looking at opportunities for economic development,
22 for profit making, supporting entrepreneurship and what-
23 have-you. And what have you. So there's opportunities
24 there if your nation is looking at different ways of
25 reporting to your membership. Again, that's part of

1 nationhood, a part of self-determination. So we want to
2 become a center of excellence to support that for you.

3 So everything else in my mind is a very
4 colonial influenced. And we heard from our last presenter
5 that you know, still there's this subtle racism you know,
6 within the whole Canadian framework that's impeding First
7 Nations' path to you know, their version of sovereignty.
8 So nations need to be aware of that. NRT is here to help
9 reveal that and support next steps.

10 So next slide is a very quick updates over
11 the last 14, 13 years or so. We have supported \$68.5
12 million directly to First Nations and First Nation student
13 learners through our bursary program. So 23 million went
14 to direct payments to First Nations to support their
15 various capacity initiatives you know, education, as you
16 can see on this slide is a big component. What we've done,
17 we've supported almost 3000 bursaries and scholarships to
18 First Nation learners across BC, economic development 5
19 million and that's an area that we're looking to refocus
20 to support First Nations in BC, too. We acknowledge that
21 economic development as well as supporting entrepreneurs
22 is another key step in nation building.

23 We also do projects for elders, youth and K
24 to 12. So we've supported 6,575 individual projects in our
25 13 years for an amount of 68.5 million.

1 Next slide six. It's just a pie chart of
2 the total funding. Again, we do get a third-party funding
3 from the province and the feds for certain initiatives
4 like the BC Clean Energy Initiative, we've received \$17.3
5 million in our history as a third-party delivery of
6 government contracts. You saw on the previous slide that
7 we funded 68.5 million. We've paid \$5.4 million in our
8 investment fees with our fund, which you'll see on the
9 next page. And we've did all this work in the last 13 and
10 a half, 14 years, we've spent \$13.4 million just on our
11 administration. So that's our building cost, our staff
12 costs, all our insurance and what have you. So it's
13 pretty reasonable.

14 Slide seven as of August 31st. So for those
15 of you don't know, in 2006, NRT was capitalized with \$100
16 million through legislation. So that hundred million
17 dollars is now just short of 91 million. As you saw on the
18 previous slide, we have funded 68 point million dollars.
19 So that \$68.5 million represents a lot of the income we've
20 earned on our fund. And this is just a snapshot of the
21 fund. When the pandemic hit in March, our fund went down
22 to 77 million. So we lost pretty substantial. It is coming
23 back. And part of the reason is, you know, the markets
24 went down, not because of financial reasons. It went down
25 because of a health pandemic. So the financial markets

1 just took a temporary dip, but there is some long-term
2 consequences for us because we missed essentially a half
3 year of making revenue. So we're going through a rethink
4 of how we can supplement our revenues for the next fiscal
5 year.

6 So the next slide is just the NRT pandemic
7 response. The main key takeaways. We're open for business.
8 If you go to our web websites, we are still accepting
9 applications from First Nation communities until December.
10 So, you know, despite the challenging financial markets,
11 we still increased our actual budget this year to support
12 to nation building because we knew nations would need
13 support for their -- to help them respond to their
14 pandemic. We're focused on establishing strategic
15 partnerships or working with the province and the feds on
16 becoming a preferred third-party platform to deliver you
17 know, funding to First Nations for whatever purposes. And
18 one of our key successes is the BC Clean Energy. And it's
19 something that we are working on quite feverishly right
20 now is to try to get access to further commitments from
21 the government to support clean energy, help First Nations
22 get self-sufficiency in their clean energy, help move away
23 from diesel reliance and what-have-you. We made it more
24 accessible for Indigenous entrepreneurs to access capital.
25 So our old way of funding was a one and done funding. So

1 an entrepreneur could come once through our program. Now
2 we've created multiple streams of funding. So we
3 acknowledge that there is an early stage for new
4 entrepreneurs, but there's also maybe a growth stage for
5 entrepreneurs that have been in business for multiple
6 years. We want to provide a certain funding stream for
7 each of those phases. And NRT is working with the
8 Aboriginal financial institutions to get that support. So
9 if you know entrepreneurs that need support, we've also
10 reduced the equity match requirement. We previously
11 required a hundred percent matching to NRT dollars. Now we
12 reduced that to 30%. So it's more money, less in the
13 pocket for entrepreneurs and they get access to more cash.
14 So before we used to give an equity match of 5,000, now
15 it's 7,500 for their first time through the program. And
16 if they've demonstrated some success and have a viable
17 business, they can get up to \$10,000 when they want to do
18 bigger growth opportunities for their own business.

19 We extended the application deadline to
20 December 31st. We used to have it in the summer, so we're
21 trying to support as many nations as they come back and
22 open for business to support their initiatives.

23 And just my last point here is we're,
24 we're, we're helping First Nations submit applications or
25 we're supporting them for their specific pandemic response

1 type of application. So the example I gave earlier, a
2 nation is actually developing their own pandemic biologic
3 and we're supporting that consulting work to do that body
4 of work for them.

5 So that's our response.

6 Looking ahead. What we're doing is that we
7 have a total re renewed focus on nationhood. As I said
8 earlier everything we're doing is trying to ensure that
9 NRT is a hub and center of excellence that First Nations
10 can use to develop their own path to self-determination
11 and nationhood on their own terms. And this could mean
12 just some incremental funding at the beginning stage, but
13 as they grow and their need for bigger and better
14 processes down the line may require some bigger or larger
15 funding amounts to support those initiatives.

16 Another big thing we're trying to do is, is
17 to support the capacity to draw out their indigenous
18 knowledge systems. So bringing elders together -- a good
19 example is supporting a nation in capturing their GIS,
20 their... mapping their land traditional territories, not
21 just with a map, but with video, with traditional stories.
22 It's one thing to produce a map, but it's another thing to
23 show a map with a key traditional sites that you can
24 support with a video of an elder telling why, you know, a
25 hundred, three -- hundreds of years ago, why this site was

1 important to the nation. I think it's much more powerful.
2 And if you could do project like that, I think it's again,
3 is one key step towards nation building.

4 We're, we're trying to be innovative to
5 help multistage funding streams. So we acknowledged that
6 we've been trying for many years just to spread as much
7 money to as many communities as possible. We're now
8 rethinking again, that there's different stages of nation
9 building, and we're looking to rethink in how we support
10 those different stages.

11 We're trying to have a renewed focus on
12 lessons learned and success stories. So, as I said
13 earlier, we're trying to gather success stories and
14 lessons that nations have gone through -- that other
15 nations who may just be starting that same exercise and
16 sharing those stories, sharing those lessons learned so
17 mistakes aren't done twice by communities and they can
18 learn some indigenous best practices.

19 Rebranding, I'm in the process but we're
20 going to do a total redo of our website. My big goal for
21 NRT is actually to be recognized as the best application
22 process in Canada, that people speak really highly of that
23 process and sort of complain about other application
24 process, not to put down other platforms, but that's our
25 goal and at the same time be a professional organization.

1 So we're in process of putting a plan together to do that.

2 So really we're really going to streamline
3 that application process. That's all done online, and our
4 response time is very quick. We're focused on strategic
5 partnerships with the public and private sector.

6 Another thing we're going to try to do is
7 really connect with the private sector, big real estate
8 firms and other firms that have indigenous reconciliation
9 agendas. And we help them meet those requirements.

10 Lastly, we're trying to leverage the
11 success of the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative to
12 establish a regional national funding platform that really
13 catalyzes the First Nation participation in clean energy
14 economy.

15 So we have a really successful program
16 right now, and we're trying to reinvigorate that to
17 support nation building in that area in perpetuity. So
18 essentially have a fund that First Nations have, they can
19 come to over the next, you know, a hundred years to get
20 access to funding to support their clean energy
21 initiatives.

22 So that was part of our strategy session
23 just the other week. And I think that concludes my
24 presentation. So we're willing to take questions, but
25 again, if I know you guys have, or are behind schedule,

1 and you have some resolutions, if you have specific
2 questions that you want to talk to me individually about
3 my email here is on, on the last slide, feel free to reach
4 out to me and I'd be happy to discuss any initiative you
5 have for your community and how NRT can support that.
6 Again, we're here for you. You know, the time is now I
7 think to really move ahead with nation building. Thank you
8 very much for your time.

9 TYRONE MCNEIL: Great. Thank you.
10 Walter, we'll take a few minutes for any questions or
11 comments, chiefs or delegates might have. Just to remind
12 you I can't see everybody so a wave the camera doesn't
13 always work. I think you blew them away with all that
14 information, Walter.

15 Hugh, any concluding remarks?

16 HUGH BRAKER: Thank you. I forgot to
17 mention that, of course, Walter is a member of the
18 Squamish First Nation by my slip up. Everybody who knows
19 him will know that. Of course, no, I have no other
20 remarks. Thank you very much for the invitation, Tyrone.
21 We appreciate it.

22 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kleco kleco, Hugh.
23 Huychqa, Walter. Thank you for that information.

24 (Track 20)

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: So as mentioned, we do

1 have three resolutions to make your way through. First,
2 I'll draw your attention to resolution 2020-32 REGARDING
3 LEGAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

4 And just to be clear, we don't have a brief
5 note or anything on this. So we're going to read the
6 resolution into the record and then ask Chief Byron to
7 speak to it.

8 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
9 in Assembly fully support Okanagan Indian
10 bands (OKIB) effort to identify potential
11 legal options to address the Crown's
12 failure to protect wildlife populations and
13 habitat and his failure to attempt to
14 justify its infringements of Indigenous
15 people's inherent rights; and

16 Therefore further be it resolved the UBCIC
17 Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC
18 executive and staff to help the OKIB lead
19 and develop comprehensive legal and
20 political strategy to address the Crown's
21 failure to protect wildlife populations and
22 habitat and his failure to attempt to
23 justify its infringements of Indigenous
24 people's inherent rights; and

25 Therefore finally be it resolved the UBCIC

1 Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC
2 executive and staff to seek to undertake
3 the above actions in collaboration and
4 coordination with other similarly effective
5 Indigenous groups within and outside BC.

6 Moved by Chief Byron Louis. Looking for a
7 seconder. Kukpi7 Lee has his hand up first. Kukstemc.
8 Chief Byron, would you mind just providing a little bit of
9 detail around the resolution, please?

10 You're muted, Byron. unmute.

11 BYRON LOUIS: All right. Thank you for
12 pointing that out. Anyway. Byron Louis, Chief of the
13 Okanagan Band.

14 One of the reasons for this is that you
15 know, if we -- going over the years and like I said
16 yesterday, if you look around at the Province of British
17 Columbia and the growing list of species that are moving
18 dangerously close to either being listed or potentially
19 listed as a species of special interest, endangered,
20 threatened or extrovated, which means are no longer found
21 in a particular area, but are still found within a region,
22 state or another country.

23 And we actually, when you look at this and
24 you know, we talk about consultation, accommodation, and
25 but one thing that we never do talk about is the

1 justification of government to have to have a fiduciary
2 obligation to justify infringement.

3 And I think one of the very best examples
4 of, you know, of failure is a failure to implement
5 *Sparrow*. And if we all know that *Sparrow* was a precedent
6 setting Supreme Court decision that set out the criteria
7 to determine whether a governmental infringement on
8 Aboriginal rights was justifiable and providing these
9 rights were in existence at the time of the *Constitution*
10 *Act* of 1982.

11 Well, the majority of our rights in British
12 Columbia have been proven whether it be hunting or
13 fishing. And at most times the province is really
14 reluctant to further have those rights defined by the
15 courts. But one of the things that, you know, I stated
16 yesterday is when you look at the amount of you know
17 species that are moving towards extinction and one of the
18 driving factors of this was a recent decision by DFO to
19 open a fisheries, a recreational fishery in the lower
20 Fraser, and this was done over and above of what you know,
21 the Aboriginal rights of the Sto:lo, the people that live
22 in that particular area have practiced their rights for
23 thousands of years in that particular area, and suddenly
24 saying that their rights are subservient to basically a
25 recreational fishery. You know, the question should be

1 is: how did government basically come to that decision?
2 Because is that a justifiable or is that just another
3 example of an extraordinary impact? And I think that's one
4 of the things that we really need to do is collectively is
5 force government, especially the province, to justify
6 their infringements.

7 And again, yesterday when we were talking
8 about that and constitutional law, I mean, it's Supreme
9 Court decisions, some of the most recent decisions were
10 that, especially in decisions like *Sparrow* that had said
11 that you know, that said, use of provinces under section
12 92, they may infringe, but they must justify their
13 infringement, but they lack the constitutional authority
14 to extinguish.

15 But you look in British Columbia, how many
16 times are we turning around now? But it's not only
17 Chinook, it's also the upper ends of the Fraser where they
18 go up into the Carrier Sekani lands. So they haven't been
19 able to properly harvest or do food, social and ceremonial
20 use, on those since probably for the last 20 to 30 years.

21 You look at right now, what's happening in
22 again, in the Fraser you have Thompson Coho, you have
23 Coho, you have steelhead, but you start looking at similar
24 resident's thoughts, or you start looking at ungulates at
25 different parts of the province, in particular mountain

1 caribou that are, you know with subpopulations about
2 entering the stage of extinction. And yet all the way
3 through this process there hasn't been any justification
4 by the, by the province or the federal government.

5 And one of the things that, you know, is
6 you know, through discussions also at some of the -- or at
7 some of the national you know, bodies like NCOSAR, and
8 which is a National Council on Species at Risk and for
9 NCOSAR, which is a First Nations advisory committee on
10 species at risk a number of participants, and in
11 particular, what's been happening up in Yukon. And you
12 know, the very same thing that's happening down here is
13 happening on First Nations in the Yukon with Chinook, who
14 they haven't been able to harvest for quite some time.
15 They would really, you know, on speaking to some of the
16 chiefs in the Yukon, there's a number of them want to
17 start talking about looking at how we can actually develop
18 that legal strategy to address this whole issue of
19 wildlife management, but more importantly, the failure of
20 government to justify it.

21 So this is the reasons for this is to
22 actually move those discussions forward. And although
23 there wasn't a briefing note attached to this, there has
24 been a briefing note developed. There has been a draft
25 letter that can be actually taken, and it'd be a provided

1 in word document for other First Nations that are actually
2 undergoing the effects of losing their food social, or
3 ceremonially access to species and send it off to the
4 provincial and federal governments and demanding that they
5 justify their actions. And you know, yesterday when we
6 were talking, we need to understand that there is --
7 there's an economic value to the loss of Aboriginal
8 rights. And yesterday it was provided, if you actually
9 look at it. And this is just from, you know, discussions
10 with you know, with some of the Sto:lo people that are
11 telling me that they, you know, their studies show that
12 there are people, on the average, consume about a thousand
13 pounds of fish and different other species per year.

14 So if you actually look at it from that
15 context, a thousand, a thousand pounds per individual, you
16 times that by 10,000 Sto:lo, then you start getting into
17 some very substantial numbers over a year. And suddenly
18 you're talking about a thousand pounds times 10,000 people
19 times 365. Well, yeah, and per year, and suddenly you're
20 talking about you know about roughly about 10 million
21 pounds, but also, you translate that into such things as
22 retail value. Suddenly you're talking about 89 million of
23 that potential value just for the food alone. And that's
24 not talking about the ceremonial use or the societal use
25 that we'd done in trade and other things to that. So

1 suddenly over a 10-year period, you're talking about for
2 one nation practically close to a billion dollars. So what
3 we're talking about is a substantive numbers that we need
4 to force government, because when they extinguish an
5 Aboriginal right, they must understand that it has both
6 you know values for food, social and ceremony use, but
7 also it has a value that can be translated into dollars.

8 So, you know, we need to go there because
9 it's the only viable way that we can probably protect our
10 species is to make sure that it costs more to pay us out
11 for extinguishing our right, as opposed to restoring as
12 species. So in a way it's a means to actually move to
13 protect our species.

14 And to end with, you know, when I first
15 started out in about 1991, we had some of our elders at
16 that time that were, you know, in their nineties and these
17 people were born in the 18 hundreds. They always used to
18 tell us, you know, protect the animals and look after the
19 animals and in turn they will look after you. When we look
20 at it from that context. And I thought, wow, that's, you
21 know, I was thinking about, you know, just alliance is a
22 saying, but if you actually look at it every last court
23 case that we've ever entered since the 1980s with you
24 know, Louise Mandell was talking about yesterday and with
25 the Manuel case and that was about access to an animal,

1 whether it be a fish, whether it be something, and you
2 look at that, you know, those were, you know, with these
3 court cases, we established rights and we established you
4 know, rights to territories, rights to ecosystems, in a
5 lot of ways when you actually look at it for what our
6 elders had said, it was the animals that gave us back our
7 rights, you know. So this is something that, you know, it
8 never escapes me and something that we really need to do.

9 And this was the reason to look at this
10 legal strategy to address wildlife. And again, I have the
11 briefing note that's been developed. I also have a draft
12 of the letter that that, you know, is being shared and
13 I'll ask UBCIC if they can post, along with the
14 resolution, the briefing note, and also the draft template
15 letter. But this is the purposes of this. And if we can
16 actually do that, we could actually -- we could build a
17 coalition to actually do this, to look at -- to address
18 wildlife mismanagement from Yukon to the border of BC,
19 which basically, you know, covers off the whole Pacific
20 Northwest. So this is something that I really believe
21 strongly in, and I hope that people will support that.
22 Okay. Thank you.

23 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Chief.
24 Opening up to questions or comments from the chiefs and
25 delegates. Are we prepared to go to question?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Question.

2 TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any
3 opposition to the resolution? Any abstentions to the
4 resolution? Seeing and hearing neither I would consider
5 the resolution carried. Thank you. Thank you, chief.
6 Byron.

7 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

8 TYRONE MCNEIL: We'll now go to the
9 next resolution 2020-33 REGARDING SUPPORT FOR THE MI'MAQ
10 FISHERS AND PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS, SAFETY, AND
11 LIVELIHOODS.

12 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
13 in Assembly condemn any acts of violence
14 and aggression committed against the Mi'maq
15 fishermen and attempts to hinder and make
16 Mi'maq members exercising their legal
17 fishing rights; and

18 Therefore further be it resolved the UBCIC
19 Chiefs in Assembly Direct the UCIC
20 executive and staff to work with likeminded
21 organizations to advocate in support of the
22 Mi'maq Nation and ensure that government
23 inaction and indecision does not bolster
24 and condone the infringement of the Mi'maq
25 rights and further acts of hostility and

1 violence; and
2 Therefore finally be it resolved the UBCIC
3 Chiefs in Assembly call upon all relevant
4 federal and provincial ministers and
5 government agencies to safeguard the
6 unextinguished and constitutionally
7 affirmed fishing rights to the Mi'maq
8 Nation and to prosecute any illegal protest
9 or criminal behavior from those seeking to
10 undermine those rights.

11 Moved by Kukpi7 Christian. Looking for a
12 seconder.

13 BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief
14 Okanagan Band.

15 Sorry, Byron, Councillor Terry had his hand
16 up, but I couldn't move over quick enough. So I'll go to
17 councillor Terry for the seconder. Opening up for any
18 discussion. Any discussion?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Question.

20 TYRONE MCNEIL: Question has been
21 called, any opposition to the resolution? Are there any
22 abstentions to the resolution? Seeing neither it is
23 carried. Thank you.

24 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: And our final

1 resolution of the day is 2020-34, REGARDING SUPPORT AND
2 FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND HOMELESS
3 INITIATIVES.

4 Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs
5 in Assembly call on federal government to
6 directly fund and support the First
7 Nations-led Reaching Home and Rapid Housing
8 Initiative (RHI) on an emergency basis; and
9 Therefore further be it resolved the UBCIC
10 Chiefs in Assembly commit to offering
11 advocacy and leadership when and where
12 required by First Nations advancing,
13 Reaching Home and RHI; and
14 Therefore finally be it resolved the UBCIC
15 Chiefs in Assembly call on the federal
16 government and provincial governments to
17 honour indigenous title and rights and
18 treaty rights with respect to access to the
19 use of land for the purposes of realizing
20 any goal, objective or aim under the
21 national housing strategy related to First
22 Nations housing.

23 Moved by [Native language], Councillor Paul
24 Sam. Looking for a seconder.

25 GREG LOUIE: Ahousaht here, Mr. Chair. I

1 have my name in the chat there. Ahousaht supports this,
2 Ahousaht seconds this. This is Chief Greg Louie.

3 TYRONE MCNEIL: Kleco kleco,, Greg. I
4 had too much in front of me. I'd lost track of the chats.
5 Any discussion on the resolution?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Question;

7 TYRONE MCNEIL: Question has been
8 called, any opposition to the resolution? Any abstentions
9 to the resolution? Hearing neither it is carried. Thank
10 you.

11 (RESOLUTION PASSED)

12 TYRONE MCNEIL: Chiefs and delegates,
13 that brings us to the end of our agenda. We'll look to the
14 executive for any concluding remarks, starting with Kukpi7
15 Judy.

16 **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

17 JUDY WILSON: Kukstemc to all the
18 chiefs and councillors members of the Union of BC Chiefs
19 for sticking it out for two days during our virtual forum.
20 This may be the couple of times we may have to do it
21 pending the COVID next wave. I want to acknowledge. Grand
22 Chief Stewart Phillip, first of all, yesterday he was here
23 at the 52nd Annual General Assembly, and also, you know,
24 his words of cautioning, you know, the second wave of
25 COVID and to prepare and get the necessary supplies and

1 resources into our communities, into our schools. So our
2 leadership is working on that diligently and with First
3 Nations Health Authority and Interior Health and the
4 province. So it's really important to be prepared.

5 And also I want to congratulate Kukpi7
6 Christian and Mary Ellen on the eBook for the child
7 caravan and the virtual exhibit, and just reminding
8 everyone to send in their photos and stories because it
9 will become a historic collection.

10 So I think it's really important that, you
11 know, we learn and celebrate, you know, from our historic
12 milestones that we achieved, especially in regard to
13 jurisdiction over children and family.

14 And the legal updates, there was a lot in
15 the legal updates. I am not going to cite all of them, but
16 I did acknowledge the Gitenyow case. So I think that's an
17 important one to learn from regarding, you know, the issue
18 of inherent rights section constitution 35 rights and how
19 the courts are treating this. And I was noting again,
20 Kukpi7 Wayne's question in regard to Indigenous laws and
21 also how are the courts treating the UN Declaration and
22 Bill 41 and the courts and the lawyer said it's not
23 broadly in the courts yet, but also that the legal
24 counsels are certainly raising it at the court case
25 tables.

1 And also as *South Winds versus Canada* case,
2 what our specific claims working group has been
3 highlighting and working on for how to properly design a
4 compensation and Penticton Indian Band and Williams Lake
5 Band are part of that intervenor, part of that case. And
6 so there's sort of some of -- and also I wanted to say
7 Coldwater worked very hard on their case and I feel it was
8 unjustly dealt with in the court system and that's the
9 common law courts, you know, they're working towards
10 protecting their water and they have every right to do
11 that. And under their indigenous laws, they have the right
12 to do that. And even under the minimum Human Rights UN
13 Declaration they have that right. That's the legal
14 highlights and though there's a lot of them I would
15 encourage the communities to review them and be updated
16 legally on those cases and also the need to shift to
17 Indigenous laws and really not rely the colonial court
18 systems on their common law.

19 The UN Declaration and implementation is
20 going to be a lot of work. As you can see the provinces
21 are still doing you a lot of unilateral business as usual.
22 And even with Bill 41, we have to really implement the
23 change and the shift from those colonial laws, as I
24 mentioned, and also the work Chief Don Tom and the Union
25 are staying on self-determination and using our own

1 processes as separate from the BCTC. I think that's what
2 we're underscoring the work that needs to be done in that
3 area.

4 And I really enjoyed the hunting and the
5 forestry and the fishing updates that strengthens UBCIC's
6 position we historically had and we're continuing today
7 and the work that we need to do cause we have free, prior
8 informed consent now and our self-determination.

9 And I just wanted to acknowledge Chief
10 Dalton's Silver for our fisheries rep and Bob Chamberlin
11 for all the work he does for wild salmon and also the Wild
12 Salmon Working Group. Tyler was mentioning, they're going
13 to meet and looking forward to what the work's going to
14 come, how it's going to come together and fisheries. I
15 can't imagine our nations and BC without a fishery,
16 without wild salmon. So that's you know, we need to turn
17 that around, that narrative around and only we can. I am
18 certainly losing faith in the DFO in what it's doing in
19 management or lack of management. We need to turn that
20 story around.

21 And the investigation and the systemic
22 racism in the healthcare that Mary Ellen is also doing.
23 You know, send your stories in. Our nation is coming
24 together to do that.

25 Hoping there's a motion and for our chiefs

1 to be able to say how we can help the community members or
2 help the nation put together the information so we can
3 submit that. So our nation is represented.

4 And I also want to say the sad note of the
5 youth who died in Abbotsford care home. We're still
6 falling that issue up. It will be in the news. And we're
7 following it up and advocating for the mother's tragic
8 loss of her son. And she needs the justice and the
9 accountability of not just the province, but also the RCMP
10 and the coroner's office.

11 I'm doing a full investigation and also an
12 independent one, so that we can get you know, find out
13 what exactly happened to prevent this from happening
14 again.

15 And also specific claims you know, that was
16 a timely report, especially with Trans Mountain expansion
17 and all the hundreds of specific claims existing on the
18 old pipeline and not mentioning the new - with the future
19 twinning of the pipeline.

20 And we'll certainly follow up our work with
21 the AFN on the chief's committee on land, territory and
22 resources. And so I just wanted to also say the child and
23 family updates, we'll continue to do that. We have another
24 town hall that will be scheduled. Our first one was really
25 great, and it was very informative and looking forward to

1 the next child and family and acknowledging Dawn Johnson
2 again on her tireless work she does in that area.

3 And I just want to congratulate Melissa
4 Moses on her great presentation today. Even though it was
5 very, very difficult she came across very clear and
6 articulate to the issues our women and girls face. But I
7 want I want to say it's not just a women's issue. It's a,
8 it's all of our issue. It's the men's issue and the
9 women's issue together, because the women are, you know,
10 are life givers and they're, you know, bring up the
11 children and everything. So I just want to say that, you
12 know, we have to say this issue affects all of us and give
13 the support that Melissa needs, and all of our women need
14 that are working in this area to make those changes that
15 are, that are needed for healthy communities and healthy
16 leadership. And you know, our future is at stake when our
17 children and are effected and our women are affected. So
18 once we -- it's more than just healing, it's, it's a whole
19 mindset, a whole change. And I think the House of the Moon
20 program that's being launched on October 16th and hoping
21 many of the communities tune in on to that and let it
22 become part of it for this change that's happening. It's
23 Indigenous women led, it's First Nations community led. So
24 that's the big difference. Thank you.

25 TYRONE MCNEIL: Chief Don.

1 DON TOM: Thank you. [Native language].
2 My dear elders and relatives here today, I
3 thank you for this beautiful work that we had done over
4 the last two days. And certainly again, thanking Debra
5 Baker for the welcoming, for the prayer, and also
6 congratulate to our new elders rep, Amelia Washington. And
7 I certainly enjoyed hearing you speak and hearing your
8 songs today and it indeed lifted my spirits. So thank you
9 for singing your songs. A really beautiful voice. To
10 Kukpi7 Wilson, whatever you're doing, keep it up, looking
11 great. I was telling her she had an outfit on yesterday
12 and I said, I'm going to have to go out and shop. I can't
13 have you out dressing me.
14 So I enjoy working with you, Kukpi7, and
15 certainly good to see you in person. And that's kind of
16 where I was going to is seeing everyone in person and
17 recognizing where we are in our, I think just during the
18 difficulties of COVID and some of the challenges that our
19 chiefs are facing in the communities of isolation, of
20 suicide, of substance abuse.
21 You know, we're, we're in two States of
22 emergency. One, the opioid crisis. And then also the
23 COVID-19 pandemic that we're in. So, you know, right now,
24 certainly we're in trying times in each of our
25 communities. And so just recognizing our chiefs and

1 | leaders have the ability to take time to continue to
2 | advance the work that we're doing here at the Union.

3 | And so I'm just very appreciative to the
4 | chiefs for your continued commitment and a willingness to
5 | take the time, two days out of your week to, to join us
6 | here. I certainly thank our staff here for putting this
7 | together. And I think I can't say enough that how I'm
8 | talking directly into a camera right now and just how
9 | bizarre it is not to have our Chiefs here. And for someone
10 | who likes to socialize and talk with the chiefs and joke
11 | around, it's certainly different. I miss you I miss the
12 | chiefs and miss everyone out there as well.

13 | I wanted to do a shout out to Urban Native
14 | Youth Association who gracefully brought me an orange t-
15 | shirt here today at lunchtime. And so thank you for -- I
16 | wanted to do a shout out. And thinking of every child
17 | matters today.

18 | And I, I think of my mom, I think of my
19 | grandmothers who all attended residential school, not by
20 | choice. And you know, I was reflecting today on this
21 | remembering in hearing Melissa speak and hearing Amelia
22 | speak and reflecting on the contributions of my mother and
23 | my grandmothers, and just particularly today with heavy
24 | child matters. And you know, the difficulties that and the
25 | experiences that you had in residential school and that

1 for me to be here, I think is certainly a miracle, because
2 having two grandmothers who attended residential school
3 and having a mother and so I'm very fortunate to be here
4 and to have the opportunity to speak with you today. And I
5 think that, you know, for those who attended residential
6 school, and I've shared this before, that you provided us
7 this opportunity here today, and much like to the
8 discussion about the caravan that, you know how do we
9 measure the success and how do we look at our community?

10 And one of the things that I truly
11 appreciate is the resiliency of our, of our elders who
12 attended residential school. And know that today our
13 language is alive because of you and our culture is alive
14 because of you and you didn't give up. And you gave us
15 this opportunity here today. So I thank you and recognize
16 all the contributions that you have made in bettering our
17 lives and ensuring that we have a fighting chance to
18 ensure that we maintain our language and our title and
19 rights. And so I thank you for that today and thank you to
20 our wonderful team who's here today and who put this all
21 together, thank you to our technical team, James who's
22 here today as well. And we're, we're operating in a
23 different time in a different way, and it's certainly
24 trying on everyone.

25 And I wish each of you health and safety in

1 your communities. And certainly also recognizing Grand
2 Chief who joined us yesterday. And I just ask that you
3 keep him in your prayers and that we continue to provide
4 him strengths. And so it certainly lifted me up to see him
5 in person yesterday and I admire his leadership and all
6 that he brings to the Union. And certainly we're blessed
7 to have him to be a part of our team. So Grand Chief,
8 we're thinking of you today and sending you some good
9 vibes and prayers and energy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Just to
11 Don's comment about sitting here in front of cameras,
12 instead of in front of chiefs, if you follow the BCIC
13 Facebook, I actually took a picture, panoramic type
14 picture when Don first made that statement earlier today,
15 just to show everybody that all we see in front of us is a
16 camera, a whole bunch of TV screens, and probably several
17 hundred meters of wires. So it is a little bit weird in
18 that fashion.

19 But just in terms of my closing comment. I
20 just reiterate and a shout out for James Haldane, the
21 technical team behind us, they're remarkable. There, there
22 was all kinds of glitches along the way that you're not
23 even, not even aware of the majority of them were fixed
24 before they became too big of an issue and shout out for
25 Jodie and Andrea, particularly from all the staff there.

1 They're remarkable too. The staff here are tracking
2 everything on an app called WhatsApp, and there's
3 literally over a hundred comments from everybody over the
4 course of each day, just checking on things, double
5 checking things. There's a glitch here it's fixed, you
6 know, that kind of conversation. So they put lots of
7 hours, along with the tech team, in preparing for this
8 meeting and I think it's demonstrated for the last two
9 days where I think we had one minor audio glitch and all
10 the rest was pretty seamless. Knock on wood. So they make
11 all of our jobs so much easier. So really appreciating
12 dedication and hard work of both staff and our technical
13 team. So with that, I invite forward sister Debra Baker,
14 to close us off in a good way.

15 DEBRA BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
16 and thank you again, everyone who participated, who
17 presented and just the dialogue, everything was so
18 fantastic that this is historical making what's happening
19 today because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So thank each and
20 every one of you for your patience. I just want to read
21 this in honour of all of our ancestors, our elders,
22 residential school survivors, and even the [Native
23 language] today that are, will be elders 50 years from
24 now. This is a poem by Chief Dan George, late Chief Dan
25 George from Tsleil Waututh Nation.

1 (CLOSING PRAYER)

2 TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Thank you
3 so much, Debra. So that concludes our 52nd Annual General
4 Assembly. We'll be doing something similar in February for
5 our chiefs council meetings. So encouraging everybody to
6 stay safe, stay healthy, and we'll chat again. Take care.

7 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

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