

First Nations Summit

July 11, 2018

Chief Dan George, Chair
Housing & Infrastructure Council
Via email to: executive.director@fnhic-bc.ca

Dear Chief George:

Re: Support for BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council

Enclosed for your use and files is a signed copy of a First Nations Summit resolution approved by the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly that expresses support for the recommendations contained in the final report, "Creating a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority: From Concept to Design" as prepared following the March 2017 BCAFN Housing Forum: Moving Forward on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Reform in BC ("Final Report") and supports efforts of the newly formed BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council to implement action items set out in the March 2017 Final Report.

As well, the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly request that the BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council provide written updates to the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly, and to provide additional updates as requested. Your office can submit written information for inclusion in future First Nations Summit meeting kits or hand distribution at a meeting to Marilyn Teneese at mteneese@fns.bc.ca.

For your information the next First Nations Summit meeting is scheduled for October 17 – 19, 2018 and the 2019 meeting schedule will be published sometime in the fall. If you would like to request agenda time to speak to the Chiefs and Leaders, please contact Howard E. Grant, Executive Director at hgrant@fns.bc.ca.

Please contact our office if you require further information.

Yours truly,
FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT TASK GROUP



Robert Phillips



Cheryl Casimer



Grand Chief Edward John

Enclosure (1) First Nations Summit Resolution #0618.04 (Support for BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council)

First Nations Summit

RESOLUTION #0618.04

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BC FIRST NATIONS HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

WHEREAS:

A. There is a significant gap in housing and infrastructure conditions between First Nations and other British Columbians. This gap is linked with a number of other social and economic factors and the poor conditions faced by many First Nations negatively affects their development, health, education and other social conditions.

B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:

Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities;

Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions;

C. The BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, UBCIC, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada signed a tripartite *First Nations Housing Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) in May 2008.

D. The MOU establishes a framework for ongoing discussions and the development of interlinked on and off-reserve housing action plans, but has been inactive for several years.

E. On March 13 & 14, 2017 in Songhees Territory, the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) hosted the BC Housing and Infrastructure Forum: Moving Forward on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Reform in BC. The purpose of the Forum was to assist in determining a path forward in relation to First Nations authority for housing and infrastructure in the BC Region within the context of a national First Nations housing and infrastructure initiative.

PAGE TWO

RESOLUTION #0618.04

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BC FIRST NATIONS HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

- F. Following the March 2017 Forum, BCAFN distributed the Forum Report, "Creating a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority: From Concept to Design," which provides a summary of thoughts and input from Housing Forum delegates regarding the creation of First Nations controlled housing and infrastructure authority in BC.
- G. In September 2017, BCAFN issued an Expression of Interest for volunteer leaders to serve on a BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure. This Chiefs Council would coordinate the process to design and implement a Housing and Infrastructure Authority that will provide authority and control to BC First Nations for all housing and infrastructure delivery in British Columbia.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly:
 - i. support the recommendations contained in the final report, "Creating a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority: From Concept to Design" as prepared following the March 2017 BCAFN Housing Forum: Moving Forward on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Reform in BC ("Final Report");
 - ii. support efforts of the newly formed BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council to implement action items set out in the March 2017 Final Report; and
 - iii. request that the BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council provide written updates to the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly, and to provide additional updates as requested.

MOVED BY: Robert Morales, Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
SECONDED BY: Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation
DATED: June 8, 2018

Passed by consensus.

ENDORSED BY:



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Grand Chief Edward John