



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Musqueam Community Centre, Vancouver, BC
October 11-13, 2017

Resolution 18/2017

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

MOVED BY: CHIEF DAN GEORGE, BURNS LAKE BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JACKIE THOMAS, SAIK'UZ FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

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

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programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

- C. 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 the 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.
- D. The BCAFN has prioritized housing and infrastructure and is developing a strategy to support safe and affordable housing and infrastructure for First Nation communities, individuals, and families.
- E. Following the March 13 & 14 Forum, the BCAFN widely 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.
- F. On September 14, 2017, BCAFN issues 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 & Infrastructure Authority that will provide authority and control to BC First Nations for all housing & infrastructure delivery in British Columbia.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the work from the March 13-14th, 2017 Housing Forum: Moving Forward on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Reform in BC, and the recommendations contained within the Forum Report, "Creating a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority: From Concept to Design."
2. The BC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, and the BC Representative on the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure to work with the newly formed Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure to implement action items from March 13-14th, 2017 Housing Forum Report.

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