

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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March 22, 2018

BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure
Via Email: dangeorge@telus.net

RE: UBCIC Resolution 2018-11 “BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure”

Dear BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure,

We are writing with respect to UBCIC Resolution 2018-11 “BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure,” which was presented, affirmed and endorsed by consensus at the UBCIC Chiefs Council on February 22, 2018 (enclosed).

By this resolution, the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports the recommendations from the BCAFN 2017 Housing Forum Report, “Creating a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority: From Concept to Design.” The UBCIC Executive will work with the Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure to implement action items from March 13-14, 2017 Housing Forum Report.

The UBCIC Chiefs Council requests that the Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure provide written updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on a quarterly basis, and provide regular updates at Chiefs Council meetings when requested.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President

Chief Robert Chamberlin
Vice-President

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer

CC: UBCIC Chiefs Council
Garry Merkel, gmerkel@telus.net

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 21ST TO 22ND, 2018

MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏӨK^WY^ƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2018-11

RE: BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure

WHEREAS 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;

WHEREAS 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;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2016-21, the UBCIC Chiefs Council objected to the ongoing, critically low levels of federal funding for First Nations housing and recognizes the devastating impacts that overcrowded and inadequate housing has on our communities;

WHEREAS the UBCIC, BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada signed a tripartite *First Nations Housing Memorandum of*

Understanding (MOU) in May 2008. This 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;

WHEREAS 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;

WHEREAS following the March 13 & 14 Forum, the 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; and

WHEREAS on September 14, 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 the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports the recommendations from the BCAFN 2017 Housing Forum Report, “Creating a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority: From Concept to Design”;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to work with the newly formed Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure to implement action items from March 13-14, 2017 Housing Forum Report; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council requests that the Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure provide written updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on a quarterly basis, and provide regular updates at Chiefs Council meetings when requested.

Moved: Chief Harvey McLeod, Upper Nicola Band
Seconded: Art Anthony, Neskonlith Indian Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 22, 2018