

# First Nations Summit

## RESOLUTION #0221.15

**SUBJECT: BC FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (BCFNCSAP)**

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### WHEREAS:

- A. Climate change threatens the security and way of life of Indigenous Peoples across Canada. In British Columbia, the current climate crisis is contributing to forest fires, flooding, drought, increased temperatures, and rising sea levels. These outcomes of climate change are directly impacting our communities, our traditional food sources, and biodiversity.
- B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement, states that:

**Article 18:** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which affect their rights, through representatives chose by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

**Article 29(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the conversation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

**Article 32(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

- C. First Nations leadership passed resolutions at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and BC Assembly of First Nations calling for the development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The FNLC has been mandated to develop the Strategy.
- D. In 2019, the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly approved Resolution #1019.14 to establish a Committee on Climate Change and rising sea levels. The work under this resolution will be rolled into the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (BCFNCSAP).
- E. The objective of the BCFNCSAP is to identify actions to strengthen Indigenous climate leadership, to reduce vulnerability to impacts, and to build capacity, understanding and resilience in First Nation communities. The BCFNCSAP will incorporate Indigenous Knowledge to help guide climate emergency responses while also communicating to governments and partners of priority areas.

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- F. The BCFNCSAP will ensure consistency with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* through the implementation of the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Call's to Action. A technical FNLC Project Team has been appointed to undertake the work to develop the BCFNCSAP.
- G. In early January 2021, the FNLC announced the initial development of the BCFNCSAP Project and invited First Nations leadership, staff and community members to participate in the engagement activities, including regional community engagement sessions in February 2021.
- H. Work under the BCFNCSAP will take place between February and June 2021, with an aim to have a final draft BCFNCSAP complete for review and discussion by June 2021. After a review period over the summer 2021, approval of the BCFNCSAP will be sought via presentation to the organizations and possible adoption of resolutions in September/October 2021.
- I. Once finalized, the BCFNCSAP will become a public document and will inform ongoing legislative changes and related policies and regulations.
- J. The FNLC Project Team provided an update and overview of the work under the BCFNCSAP at the February 2021 First Nations Summit meeting.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the First Nations Summit (FNS) Chiefs in Assembly:

- a) support the development of a BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan informed by all engagements with First Nations in BC and First Nations organizations;
- b) encourage First Nations in BC to fully engage with the First Nations Leadership Council Project Team through future engagement sessions, individual one-on-one meetings with the Project Team and through any other identified mechanisms; and
- c) encourage First Nations and First Nations organizations to review and provide feedback on draft BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan documents developed throughout the Project period.

**MOVED BY:** Chief Troy Baptiste, ʔEsdilagh First Nation

**SECONDED BY:** Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation

**DATED:** February 19, 2021

Passed by consensus.

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**ENDORSED BY:**



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Cheryl Casimer



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Robert Phillips



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Lydia Hwitsum