

First Nations Summit

RESOLUTION #0222.06

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT BC FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS:

- A. Human caused climate change and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic social, environmental, and economic injustices by disproportionately affecting First Nations communities in BC.
- B. Climate change threatens the security and way of life of Indigenous peoples across Canada and the world through the escalating impacts of climate-exacerbated disasters and through the breakdown of the ecological conditions under which human civilizations developed.
- C. First Nations have the right to determine and direct their own environmental strategies, regulations and policies concerning the climate crisis, its impacts, and the continued development of projects that directly impact the welfare and conservation of their lands, territories, and resources.
- D. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement through legislation, affirms:

Article 8

- (1) Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture;
- (2) States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
 - (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
 - (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

Article 18

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

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

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Article 26

(1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

(2) Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

(3) States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 29

(1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation 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.

(2) States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

(3) States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact

- E. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified and assessed pathways that are consistent with limiting the effects of global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial average global temperatures in order to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate.
- F. The planet has warmed 1.1°C since the preindustrial era (IPCC, AR6) and the rate for Canada is about double the magnitude of the average warming across the globe (Canada, CCCR).
- G. Provincial and federal climate mitigation and adaptation strategies are insufficient in meeting Canada's and BC's emission reduction targets, and include overreliance on unproven technologies concurrent with increased support for fossil fuel production.
- H. By *Resolution #0221.15*, the First Nations Summit (FNS) Chiefs in Assembly supported the development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy) informed by First Nations in BC and First Nations Organizations.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly:
 - a. fully respect and support First Nations continued exercise and defence of their inherent and constitutionally protected title, rights and treaty rights and efforts to ensure the protection of their respective territories amid the ongoing climate emergency;
 - b. endorse the *BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan* (the Strategy) as presented at the February 2022 First Nations Summit meeting;
 - c. call upon the provincial and federal governments to work collaboratively with the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and relevant partner organizations to implement the Strategy and First Nations' climate priorities; and
 - d. direct the First Nations Summit Task Group to collaborate with the UBCIC and the BCAFN to advocate to the provincial and federal governments for full funding to implement the strategy, in a manner consistent with Article 39 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly direct the First Nations Summit Task Group to work with the UBCIC and the BCAFN to plan a climate action session for First Nations in BC that will building upon and seek further measures to implement the Strategy.

MOVED BY: Chief John Smith, Tlowitsis First Nation
SECONDED BY: Deputy Chief Derek MacDonald, Lake Babine Nation
DATED: February 17, 2022

Passed by consensus.

ENDORSED BY:



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum