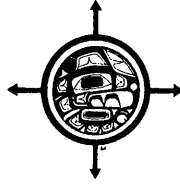


OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL, OCTOBER 1ST – 2ND, 2003
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2003-14

Re: Child Welfare

WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs asserts and inherent right of self-determination including jurisdiction relating to the children and families of those Nations;

WHEREAS to protect Aboriginal rights it is essential that each Aboriginal Authority "conduct itself in a way that is consistent with each First Nation's unique laws, practices and customs." Therefore, it is inadvisable for the Aboriginal community to participate in a blended authority;

WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs is a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding for Aboriginal Children (September 2002) and, thereby, has committed to working with the Province in a government- to government partnership towards improving the well-being of Aboriginal persons and communities in British Columbia;

WHEREAS the Province has acknowledged through the Memorandum of Understanding for Aboriginal Children that planning, policy and program development, implementation evaluation and decision-making must be undertaken jointly between the provincial government and First Nations, the Métis Nation, Inuit and other Aboriginal communities;

WHEREAS the Province has committed to create a "new and collaborative relationship with First Nations in British Columbia", as expressed through the Tsawwassen Accord. However, the Province's Sage Consultants proposal proposes a process of regionalization that is not consistent with such a collaborative relationship and ignores the principles of the Tsawwassen Accord;

WHEREAS the Province's recommendations propose a process of regionalization which co-opts local leadership and undermines local and regional control of the regionalization process;

WHEREAS the Province's recommendations are not consistent with the best interests of our children and families;

WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs has participated in and supported the efforts of the five Aboriginal regional child welfare planning committees over the past 18 months;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Union of BC Indian Chiefs rejects unequivocally the provinces recommendations of creating an interim blended authority and a process that would limit community participation, not to recognize the uniqueness of each region and not be in the best interest of our children;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Union of BC Indian Chiefs direct the province to work in direct government to government partnership and bring respect and trust to the table to resolve issues;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs direct the province to stop wasting valuable resources on trying to initiate change to a process that is not broken and move forward with what had initially been agreed to in the Tsawwassen Accord and the MOU;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED our inherent right of self-determination will only be achieved through the active and meaningful participation of Aboriginal communities in the design and development of Aboriginal institutions.

Moved: Chief Anfinn Siwallace, Nuxalk Nation
Seconded: Chief Russell Kwakseestahla
Disposition: Carried Unanimously
Date: October 2, 2003