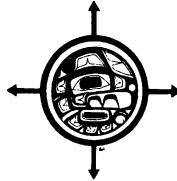


OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
35TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
KAMLOOPS, B.C.

Resolution no. 2003-19

RE: Resolution to Reject the Sage Consultants Report and the Corresponding Recommendations Adopted by the Ministry for Children and Family Development

WHEREAS First Nations in the Territory known as British Columbia assert an 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 Nations unique laws, practices and customs”;

WHEREAS through the signatories to the *Memorandum of Understanding for Aboriginal Children* (September 2002), First Nations have committed to working with the Province in an 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 the territory known as British Columbia, as expressed through the *Tsawwassen Accord*. However, then Province’s Sage consultants report proposes a process of regionalization that is not consistent with such collaborative relationships and ignores the principles of the *Tsawwassen Accord*;

WHEREAS 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

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Chief Stewart Phillip, President

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institutions and the Province's recent recommendations would co-opt local leadership and undermine 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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs rejects unequivocally the Province's proposal to create a process that would: 1) create an interim blended authority; 2) limit community participation in the design and implementation of community governance; 3) not recognize the uniqueness of each region; and, 4) not be in the best interest of our children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aboriginal leadership in the territory known as British Columbia must work with the province to jointly develop the terms of reference for a government-to-government partnership with the Province. These terms of reference will describe the process for joint dialogue and collective decision-making between the Province and the Aboriginal leadership;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs requests the Province to direct the Ministry of Children and Family Development to respect that the interests of Aboriginal children are best met through Aboriginal-governed structures, to which the Province has committed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs be directed to remind the federal government of its overarching fiduciary duty which was outlined in the UBCIC position paper "Calling Forth Our Futures"; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs be directed to assist in the organization of another provincial-wide Tsawwassen II forum to review and evaluate the *Tsawwassen Accord* and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of British Columbia.

Moved: Chief Jennifer Bobb, Spuzzum First Nation
Seconded: Chief Garry John, Seton Lake Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: November 6, 2003

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