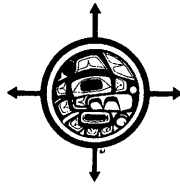


# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS  
CHIEFS COUNCIL  
MAY 25, 2002  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

## Re: Provincial Proposal for the Regionalization of Aboriginal Child Welfare Services

**WHEREAS** Our children and our families are the cornerstone of our futures;

**WHEREAS** the Indigenous Nations which are members of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs have an inherent right of self-determination including jurisdiction to the children and families of those Nations;

**WHEREAS** The provincial assertion of jurisdiction in the area of child and family services, and the delegated models which the province is urging upon our communities has resulted in a situation where our children are not being properly cared for;

**WHEREAS** The federal government has the overarching fiduciary duty to protect and support our jurisdiction in this area, and must be pressured to take up these responsibilities by fully funding and supporting our assertion of jurisdiction in the area of child and family services; and

**WHEREAS** the Province has proposed a regionalization process which would see the creation of five Aboriginal Authorities in across B.C., responsible for the delivery of child and family services across the Province:

- The regionalization process was proposed by the Province, and not structured according to the direction of Indigenous Nations;
- The regionalization proposal put forward by the province is not Nation-based, and does not recognize the inherent jurisdiction of Indigenous Nations over child welfare; and
- The province has imposed a very fast time line for consideration of their regionalization proposal, and has suggested that they will proceed with or without the involvement of Indigenous Nations, and organizations such as the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs work with other Indigenous Peoples to advise the Province that Indigenous Peoples need a full and broad opportunity to properly assess and judge the impacts that the provincial regionalization proposal will have on our children and future as Nations;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Province cannot proceed with implementing the regionalization plan, which will have drastic and long-term impacts on Indigenous Peoples, without the full involvement and consent of Indigenous Nations;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs has prepared a paper analyzing Indigenous Peoples inherent jurisdiction over child welfare (*Calling Forth Our Future: Options for the Exercise of Indigenous Peoples Jurisdiction in the Area of Child Welfare*), and the impact of provincial delegation in this area;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Province work with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs to fully examine models Indigenous jurisdiction outlined in *Calling Forth Our Future*, and explore with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs ways to implement the recommendations of that paper, which include ensuring that the federal government uphold its fiduciary obligations to Indigenous Peoples.

Moved: Chief Bob Pasco, Oregon Jack Creek Indian Band  
Seconded: Chief Robert Shintah, Political Chief, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation  
Disposition: Carried