



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
March 9 & 10, 2022
Online via Zoom

Resolution 15/2021

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR THE BC FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE
STRATEGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST NATIONS
INFORMATION GOVERNANCE CENTRES**

MOVED BY: **CHIEF JEN THOMAS, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION**

SECONDED BY: **CHIEF ED HALL, KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION**

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

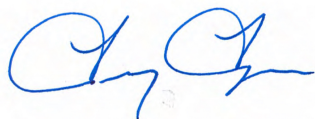
- A. First Nations have asserted that all federal, provincial and territorial government investments in First Nations data governance and analysis, information management, statistics and reporting, must align with the self-determined objectives of First Nations to achieve full data governance, to build and maintain across their governments the capacity to collect, store, protect, analyze and utilize data in their decision making and reporting, and to measure their own progress towards the outcomes defined in their community development and nation rebuilding plans;
- B. First Nations data governance and resulting systems are a steppingstone to the resurgence and application of our respective knowledge, governance systems, and laws at the interface of collaborative and shared decision making with other governments;

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- C. First Nations in BC have recognized that data governance is a building block of systems transformation. Through various forums, leaders have called for timely access to quality data to plan, manage and account for investments and outcomes, management of lands and territories, and social, economic and health outcomes of their members;
- D. 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, affirms:
- Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
- Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
- Article 31: (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
- (2) In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights;
- E. as directed by AFN resolutions, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) has developed a [National First Nations Data Governance Strategy](#) that describes the path forward to achieving the above objectives and includes the development of regional First Nations Information Governance Centres that would serve and be governed by the Nations of that region;
- F. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has committed funding, through the federal Budget 2021, for the First Nations Information Governance Centre to advance the strategy over the next three years, commencing with the next phase of work, which will focus on governance and building human resource capacity, a Data Champions Team, within the BC Region;

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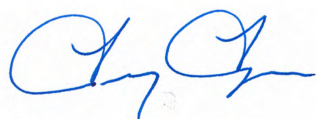
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- G. it is intended that plans, processes and timelines will be established by BC First Nations, through which BC First Nations will direct the implementation of the National Data Governance Strategy in BC;
- H. the First Nations Public Service Secretariat has provided the national FNIGC with engagement assistance in the initial round of discussion with BC First Nations in 2021; and
- I. in November 2020 and February 2021, the *In Plain Sight* reports were released and subsequently endorsed by resolutions through the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs. These reports note that current Indigenous data governance processes need to evolve to align with the latest principles in Indigenous data governance, and to produce required data in a nimbler and timely manner. Specifically, recommendation 9 calls to “Accelerate the movement towards a vision of a Nation-governed and mandated regional data centre and alignment with the National Data Governance Strategy.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorses the First Nations Information Governance Centre’s National Data Governance Strategy and recognizes that First Nations in BC have provided input by way of the BC First Nations Data Governance Discussion Paper, and acknowledge that the federal government has provided funding to implement the national strategy in BC and across the country;
- 2. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the federal government to immediately release Budget 2021 funding to the First Nations Information Governance Centre to begin implementing the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC, as directed by First Nations in BC;
- 3. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the British Columbia government to recognize BC First Nations’ Data Sovereignty in the DRIPA Action Plan;
- 4. that as soon as funding is available, a BC First Nations Data Governance Working Group supported by a Data Champions Team will be established by BC First Nations to guide the implementation of the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC and to advise on the establishment of a BC First Nations Data Centre;

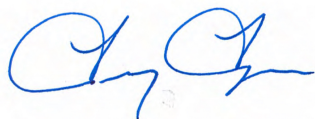
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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

5. that until such time as a Data Champions Team is functional, FNIGC will continue to seek assistance from relevant organizations in BC, such as the First Nations Public Service Secretariat, and will report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at regular intervals; and
6. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff, working with the BC First Nation Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, as the First Nations Leadership Council, to work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre, the First Nation Public Service Secretariat, and other relevant organizations to implement the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC and to establish the BC First Nations Data Governance Centre, subject to resources.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

First Nations Summit

RESOLUTION #1021.06

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE BC FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION GOVERNANCE CENTRES

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations have maintained that all federal, provincial and territorial government investments in First Nations data governance and analysis, information management, statistics and reporting, must align with the self-determined objectives of First Nations to achieve full data governance, to build and maintain across their governments the capacity to collect, store, protect, analyze and utilize data in their decision making and reporting, and to measure their own progress towards the outcomes defined in their community development and nation rebuilding plans.
- B. First Nations data governance and resulting systems are a stepping stone to the resurgence and application of our respective knowledge, governance systems, and laws at the interface of collaborative and shared decision making with other governments.
- C. BC First Nations have recognized that data governance is a building block of systems transformation. Through various forums, leaders have called for timely access to quality data to plan, manage and account for investments and outcomes, management of lands and territories, and social, economic and health outcomes of their members.
- D. 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, affirms:

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 31: (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

(2) In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

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RESOLUTION #1021.06

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE BC FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION GOVERNANCE
CENTRES**

- E. As directed by national Assembly of First Nations resolutions, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) has developed a national First Nations data governance strategy that describes the path forward to achieving the above objectives, and includes the development of regional First Nations Information Governance Centres that would serve and be governed by the Nations of that region.
- F. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has committed funding, through the federal Budget 2021, for the FNIGC to advance the strategy over the next three years, commencing with the next phase of work, which will focus on governance and building human resource capacity, a Data Champions Team, within the BC Region.
- G. It is intended that plans, processes and timelines will be established by BC First Nations, through which BC First Nations will direct the implementation of the National Data Governance Strategy in BC.
- H. The First Nations Public Service Secretariat has provided the national FNIGC with engagement assistance in the initial round of discussion with BC First Nations in 2021.
- I. In November 2020 and February 2021, the *In Plain Sight* reports were released and subsequently endorsed by resolutions through the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs. These reports note that current Indigenous data governance processes need to evolve to align with the latest principles in Indigenous data governance, and to produce required data in a timely manner. Specifically, recommendation 9 calls to "Accelerate the movement towards a vision of a Nation-governed and mandated regional data centre and alignment with the National Data Governance Strategy."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly:
 - a. endorse the First Nations Information Governance Centre's National Data Governance Strategy;
 - b. support the establishment of a BC First Nations Data Governance Working Group supported by a Data Champions Team to guide the implementation of the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC and to advise on the establishment of a BC First Nations Data Centre; and
 - c. call on the federal government to immediately release Budget 2021 funding to the First Nations Information Governance Centre to begin implementing the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC.
2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly call on the British Columbia government to recognize BC First Nations' Data Sovereignty in the Action Plan regarding the implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

RESOLUTION #1021.06

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE BC FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION GOVERNANCE
CENTRES**

MOVED BY: Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation
SECONDED BY: Judith Sayers, President Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council
DATED: October 7, 2021

Passed by consensus.

ENDORSED BY:



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
53RD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 27TH-29TH, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING

Resolution no. 2021-60

RE: Support for the BC First Nations Data Governance Strategy and the Development of First Nations Information Governance Centres

WHEREAS First Nations have asserted that all federal, provincial and territorial government investments in First Nations data governance and analysis, information management, and statistics, and reporting must align with the self-determined objectives of First Nations to achieve full data governance, to build and maintain across their governments the capacity to collect, store, protect, analyze and utilize data in their decision making and reporting, and to measure their own progress towards the outcomes defined in their community development and nation rebuilding plans;

WHEREAS First Nations data governance and resulting systems are a steppingstone to the resurgence and application of First Nations respective knowledge, governance systems, and laws at the interface of collaborative and shared decision making with other governments;

WHEREAS 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, affirms:

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 31(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

(2): In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council through Resolutions 2016-39, 2007-7, 2012-12, 2020-17 has recognized that data governance is a building block of systems transformation, and have called for timely access to quality data to plan, manage and account for investments and outcomes, management of lands and territories, and social, economic and health outcomes of their members;

WHEREAS as directed by AFN resolutions, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) has developed a [National First Nations Data Governance Strategy](#) that describes the path forward to achieving the above objectives and includes the development of regional First Nations Information Governance Centres that would serve and be governed by the Nations of that region;

WHEREAS ISC has committed funding, through the federal Budget 2021, for the First Nations Information Governance Centre to advance the strategy over the next three years, commencing with the next phase of work, which will focus on governance and building human resource capacity, a Data Champions Team, within the BC Region;

WHEREAS it is intended that BC First Nations will direct the implementation of the National Data Governance Strategy in BC and establish its plans, processes and timelines for the region;

WHEREAS the First Nations Public Service Secretariat has provided the national FNIGC with engagement assistance in the initial round of discussion with BC First Nations in 2021;

WHEREAS in November 2020 and February 2021, the *In Plain Sight* report was released and subsequently endorsed by resolutions through the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs. The report notes that current Indigenous data governance processes need to evolve to align with the latest principles in Indigenous data governance and must produce required data in a more nimble and timely manner. Specifically, recommendation 9 calls to “Accelerate the movement towards a vision of a Nation-governed and mandated regional data centre and alignment with the National Data Governance Strategy”;

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WHEREAS as soon as funding is available, a BC First Nations Data Governance Working Group supported by a Data Champions Team will be established by BC First Nations to guide the implementation of the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC and the establishment of a BC First Nations Data Centre; and

WHEREAS until such time as a Data Champions Team is functional, FNIGC will continue to seek assistance from relevant organizations in BC, such as the First Nations Public Service Secretariat, and will report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at regular intervals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorse the First Nations Information Governance Centre's National Data Governance Strategy, recognize that BC First Nations have provided input through the BC First Nations Data Governance Discussion Paper, and acknowledge that the federal government has provided funding to implement the national strategy in BC and across the country;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the federal government to immediately release Budget 2021 funding to the First Nations Information Governance Centre to begin implementing the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC, as directed by First Nations in BC;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province to recognize BC First Nations' Data Sovereignty in the Declaration Act Action Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff, working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre, the First Nation Public Service Secretariat, and other relevant organizations to implement the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC and to establish the BC First Nations Data Governance Centre, contingent upon resources and funding.

Moved: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation
Seconded: Chief Ed Hall, Kwikwetlem First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: September 28, 2021

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

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