

# FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

## RESOLUTION #1016.11

**SUBJECT: DRAFT ACTION FRAMEWORK: RECONCILIATION, SELF-DETERMINATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND NATIONS IN BC**

### WHEREAS:

- A. Following on commitments made at the September 2015 *BC Cabinet and First Nations Leadership Gathering*, the First Nations Summit, the BC Assembly of First Nations, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (working as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC)), supported by the Province of British Columbia, brought together First Nations Chiefs, advocates, experts, child-serving agencies and community members, on May 30-31, 2016, to have a serious dialogue about the crisis state of First Nations child and family welfare and, and how to ensure that there are appropriate options for First Nations children in every community, and to identify necessary policy and legislative changes.
- B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* – along with other important legal instruments, including the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* – provide an established and principled framework for reforming Indigenous child welfare and family services in BC. Collectively, they establish minimum standards for respecting and protecting Indigenous human rights, the rights of children, Indigenous laws and jurisdiction and the common law Aboriginal rights of our Nations.
- C. Subsequent to the May 2016 Gathering, and in correspondence, the FNLC became aware that the Province, responding to one of many recommendations of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY), signaled its commitment to engage in a sincere discussion about transitioning to Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family well-being.
- D. The FNLC has prepared a Draft Action Framework: Reconciliation, Self-Determination, and Self-Government for Indigenous Children, Families and Nations in BC ("Draft Action Framework").
- E. The FNLC created a BC First Nations Child and Family Working Group, including representation from Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, the Representative for Children and Youth office, the First Nations Health Council, and community-based child and family advisors, which assisted in planning the BC First Nations Child and Family Gathering held in May, and has met since to review outcomes and provide direction and feedback to the FNLC on the Draft Action Framework.
- F. On September 6, 2016, the FNLC provided the Draft Action Framework to Chiefs at the BC Chiefs Caucus prior to the First Nations - BC Cabinet Gathering in Vancouver, and reviewed it again during a panel session on September 7 during the Gathering, and feedback is being incorporated.

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G. Members of the FNLC have been actively seeking feedback on the Draft Action Framework at Chiefs' Assemblies, through the First Nations Health Council regional caucus sessions, and will meet with First Nations upon their request. The FNLC also sent out a memo to First Nations in BC on September 14, 2016, articulating the process for engagement and feedback with First Nations, and seeking all feedback by November 2, 2016.

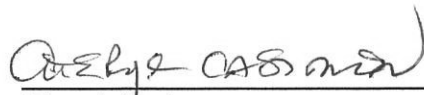
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly support in-principle the attached Draft Action Framework: Reconciliation, Self-Determination, and Self-Government for Indigenous Children, Families and Nations in BC ("Draft Action Framework").
- 2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly direct the First Nations Summit Political Executive to work with the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) as the First Nations Leadership Council, to:
  - a. collect further feedback, input and revisions from First Nations into the Draft Action Framework by November 2, 2016;
  - b. bring forward the revised Action Framework to the UBCIC, BCAFN, and FNS Chiefs' assemblies in spring 2017 for review and final endorsement; and
  - c. continue engagement with both Canada and British Columbia to honourably engage in a robust and meaningful Indigenous-driven process to reform Indigenous child welfare in BC, informed by the Draft Action Framework.

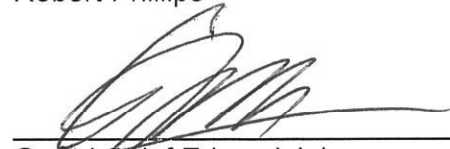
**MOVED BY:** Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Les Antone, Kwantlen First Nation  
**DATED:** October 21, 2016

Passed by consensus.

ENDORSED BY:

  
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 Cheryl Casimer

  
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 Robert Phillips

  
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 Grand Chief Edward John