

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
51ST ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 1ST- 3RD, 2019
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏӨK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2019-50

RE: Call to Action to Cease the Removal of Newborns from Hospital

WHEREAS Indigenous women and families are frequently and disproportionately targeted by the practice of hospital alerts, which involves targeting and removing newborn infants from their parents immediately postnatal;

WHEREAS the removal of a newborn infant at birth is one of the most intrusive measures that can be taken and one which has lasting impacts upon the emotional and physical bond between parents and their children;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Children and Family Development has committed to cease the practice of “Birth Alerts” which involve an alert being placed on a mother prenatal, however, this does not address or prevent an alert and subsequent removal of the child once the mother has given birth;

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 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of October of 2019 in Musqueam Territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2019-50
Page 1 of 3

be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination;

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action, which have been supported by the Chiefs of BC and Canada, call upon governments to address the colonial legacy and humanitarian crisis created by child welfare through the systematic removal of children from their parents, families, and communities, and subsequent denial of their rights;

WHEREAS the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice, which "represent important ways to end the genocide and to transform systemic and societal values that have worked to maintain colonial violence," called upon provincial and territorial governments to immediately end the practice or targeting and apprehending infants from Indigenous mothers rights after they give birth.

WHEREAS *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, which received Royal Assent on June 21st, 2019, places priority on preventative and prenatal care:

14(1): In the context of providing child and family services in relation to an Indigenous child, to the extent that providing a service that promotes preventive care to support the child's family is consistent with the best interests of the child, the provision of that service is to be given priority over other services.

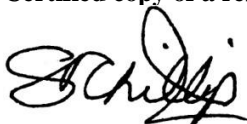
14(2): To the extent that providing a prenatal service that promotes preventive care is consistent with what will likely be in the best interests of an Indigenous child after he or she is born, the provision of that service is to be given priority over other services in order to prevent the apprehension of the child at the time of the child's birth; and

WHEREAS by Resolution 2017-06, the UBCIC Chiefs Council recognized that each First Nation has the right to determine and develop their own child, youth and family safety and well-being models, legislation, regulations, policies and practice standards, and fully supported any and all First Nations in exercising their respective jurisdiction and authority over the care and well-being of their children, youth, and families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support First Nations in the exercise of their inherent rights of self-determination and self-government, and their inherent right to care for their children, youth, and families;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to advocate for a comprehensive strategy to immediately address and cease

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of October of 2019 in Musqueam Territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2019-50
Page 2 of 3

the practice of removing newborns from their parents as First Nations transition to the resumption of their full and inherent jurisdiction over child and family services;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to call upon British Columbia to take concrete and immediate actions to address the cultural and systemic bias toward Indigenous mothers and families, including increased accountability measures for social workers and healthcare professionals; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED The UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to call upon Canada and BC to develop and implement a strategic funding strategy with a focus on prenatal and prevention services for new and expectant Indigenous parents.

Moved: Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Indian Band
Seconded: Jasmine Thomas, Saik'uz First Nation (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 3, 2019

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of October of 2019 in Musqueam Territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2019-50
Page 3 of 3