



## **RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE RECONCILIATION IN FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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### ***WHEREAS:***

It is a shared imperative of the First Nations Leadership Council (“FNLC”) and the Province of British Columbia (“the Province”) to advance reconciliation in First Nations child, youth and family well-being consistent with their inherent, constitutional and human rights and Crown/state obligations.

First Nations have the inherent right to self-determination, which includes jurisdiction over First Nations children and families.

We acknowledge the urgency of prioritizing First Nations child, youth and family well-being to overcome the continuing legacy of colonialism and rising to the demand for change evidenced by far too many stories of violence, tragedy and lost opportunities. We will collectively reimagine a new approach to child and family well-being, where the provincial system takes an all-of-government approach to respond to and serve the needs of children and families, while also supporting the gradual and seamless transition to the resumption of jurisdiction in relation to child and family services by First Nations. Keeping children, youth and families continually safe and connected to the supports they need will underpin a new approach.

The FNLC and the Province are committed to work diligently and collaboratively to support the emotional, mental and physical health, safety and well-being of First Nations children, youth and families in what is now referred to as British Columbia, through law, policy, data and fiscal transformation and approaches that are flexible, comprehensive and effective.

We embrace and are committed to implementing the evolving and expanding principled framework available to us to support First Nations children, youth and families based on their unique rights and the inherent rights of First Nations to self-determination and self-government, as guided by, but not limited to, the following:

- Tsawwassen Accord (2002)
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action
- *Constitution Act, 1982*
- *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
- *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*
- *Commitment Document and Concrete Actions*
- *FNLC-MCFD Protocol on Cooperation and Communication (2022)*
- *Reconciliation Charter for First Nations Child & Family Well-Being in British Columbia (2017)*
- FNLC-FNESC-BC Protocol to improve education outcomes of all First Nations children and youth in care and former youth in care (2020)
- Reports of the Representative for Children and Youth (BC)
- *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019)*

Contributing to this framework is the decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) in *First Nations Child and Family Caring Society et al.* (2016 CHRT 2), the alignment of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (BC) with the UN Declaration, and the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the *Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (2024 SCC 5).

The Federal legislation affirming the application of the UN Declaration in Canadian law, and the tripartite initiatives among First Nations, BC and Canada, are also important aspects of and context for this evolving principled framework and work toward reconciliation.

These milestones establish greater transparency into the enduring colonial legacy and signal the need and pathway to healthy, secure and thriving First Nation children, youth and families, and First Nations governance with respect to their own children, youth and families using approaches grounded in their own cultures, customs, traditions, laws and legal orders.

***THEREFORE:***

On this pathway to lasting reconciliation, taking lead from First Nations, we will take specific and concrete actions to contribute to implementing the principled framework to support our work, including building accurate data, achieving meaningful law reform, establishing progressive policy and programs, and designing a new fiscal model that supports government-to-government relations and First Nations' exercise of self-determination.

We acknowledge we each have historic patterns of relations, previous agreements and accords with and among one other, and that we desire to continue to improve and evolve these relations to achieve better outcomes.

We commit to each other to this work on the basis of our respective mandates and authorities and that it is vital that we coordinate these authorities and hold ourselves accountable to the desired outcomes for First Nation children, youth and families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES HAVE EXECUTED THIS ACCORD AS OF THE DATE SHOWN BELOW

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**, as represented by the Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Grace Lore


September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date


**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**, as represented by the Regional Chief


  
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Regional Chief Terry Teegee

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT**, as represented by the FNS Political Executive

  
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Cheryl Casimer

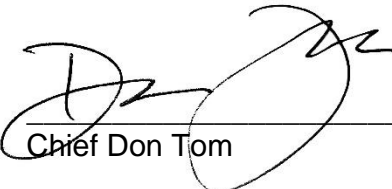
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hugh Braker


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Phillips

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ON BEHALF OF THE UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**, as represented by the UBCIC Executive

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Don Tom

  
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Chief Marilyn Slett

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date