



**Union of  
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**All Chiefs' Forum on Proposed  
Recognition Legislation**

First Nations leaders passed resolutions at BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC meetings, directing the FNLC to pursue the enactment of provincial recognition legislation, and to hold a two-day November leadership assembly to review, discuss and provide input and direction on the recognition legislation initiative and, in particular, on the following issues:

- Approaches to, and models of, shared decision-making;
- Approaches to revenue and benefit sharing; and
- Addressing shared territories and potential aggregations for the purposes of shared decision-making and revenue and benefit sharing.

**WHEN: NOVEMBER 25-26, 2008**

**WHERE: CHIEF JOE MATHIAS  
CENTRE, NORTH VANCOUVER,  
BC**

A registration form has been faxed to all First Nations; if you have not received this form, please contact us.

**Mining**

On October 7-9, 2008, the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Kaska Tribal Council, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, the UBCIC, the FNS and the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) co-hosted a province-wide BC First Nations Mining Summit in Prince George, BC. The first day of the Summit was dedicated to presentations on key issues in the mining sector, and was open to government, industry and First Nations participants. The second and third days focused on the review and revision of a draft BC First Nations Mineral Exploration and Mining Action Plan.

The draft BC First Nations Mineral Exploration and Mining Action Plan, revised based on feedback from First Nations at the Mining Summit, is available for review and further feedback by First Nations until

January 16, 2008. Please contact the BCAFN, FNS or UBCIC for a copy of the draft Plan. All comments will be incorporated, and a final draft presented at BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC assemblies in the new year.

**BC First Nations Fisheries Council**

Results from individual First Nations Fisheries Council's Spring/Summer Community Meetings are now posted on the Council's website at [www.FNFisheriesCouncil.ca](http://www.FNFisheriesCouncil.ca). First Nations and their Fisheries staff can gain access to the internal and confidential information on the website by going to the bottom of the page and selecting Login, and then registering themselves as new members. This fall discussions relating the future structure and workplan of the Council will be taking place in a number of forms, including through communications with communities, dialogue with Fisheries Council members, and through the B.C. First Nations Fisheries Council's Fisheries Assembly in February '09. More details will come in next month's newsletter.

Internal First Nations discussion related to First Nations' reviews of the proposed policy for determining Conservation Units under the Wild Salmon Policy will happen in December. Contact the Fisheries Council if you would like to participate in these sessions or receive this analysis.

Internal First Nations discussions have been taking place over the last two months with respect to the renewal of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program. A recommended Action Plan was drafted by a number of First Nations participating in the Regional First Nations Fisheries Organizations Working Group which is available to First Nations communities through the Fisheries Council.

The Fisheries Council has been tasked with setting up an Emergency Working Group on the current fisheries and economic crisis in First Nations communities. The Council would like to find out what you think about this working group. The issue will be discussed on the Regional First Nations Fisheries Organizations conference calls, and the Council will engage leaders in these discussions at the next Summit meeting and at the All Chiefs Forum on the proposed Recognition legislation in November. If you have other comments for the Council on this important issue please contact us directly.

The Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum, a group of stakeholders in the salmon fishery which has come together to look at collaborative solutions to problems with the current salmon management regime, is hosting a Workshop in Vancouver December 4 & 5. The Workshop will present the findings to date of the Forums' working groups on: in-season management case studies, monitoring and compliance, integrated watershed management, and governance. If you would like more information, or if you are interested in attending please contact the Council.

You can reach the First Nations Fisheries Council at [Brenda@FNFisheriesCouncil.ca](mailto:Brenda@FNFisheriesCouncil.ca). You can also access additional information, fisheries news clippings, and a Master Calendar of Fisheries Meetings on the Council's website at [www.FNFisheriesCouncil.ca](http://www.FNFisheriesCouncil.ca).

## Health

### REGIONAL CAUCUS SESSIONS

In October the First Nations Interim Health Governance Committee (FNIHGC) concluded regional governance caucus sessions in Kamloops, Prince George & Terrace. The purpose of the Regional Caucus Sessions is to:

- establish a meaningful dialogue with each of the BC First Nations Chiefs and Senior Health Leads to consider the development of a caucus within each region,

- select members for the First Nations Interim Health Governance Committee, and
- establish how each regional caucus will communicate and work together.

In addition, BC First Nations are being asked to confirm a negotiations mandate for the FNIHGC to develop a governance framework as detailed in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan. This governance framework is critical to the overall success of the First Nations Health Council, the Association of Health Directors, and the Provincial Advisory Committee on First Nations Health.

### **Upcoming Regional Caucus Sessions in November include:**

**Chilliwack** November 4-5

**Vancouver** November 12-13

**Nanaimo** November 17-18

FNHC provides travel and accommodation costs to one Chief (or designate) and one health lead per First Nations community. For information about the Caucus sessions please contact Derek Thompson at [dthompson@fnhc.ca](mailto:dthompson@fnhc.ca). Or to register contact Joanne Tardiff at (250) 503-1123 [joanne@cha-bc.org](mailto:joanne@cha-bc.org)

### HEALTH DIRECTORS FORUM

The FNHC hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual BC First Nations Health Directors Forum September 30<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>. The forum was attended by 120 health directors/administrators from across BC. Health Directors at the forum established a timeline for the development of a First Nations Health Directors Association. Over the next several months a subcommittee of health directors will work with FNHC technicians to further define the structure, membership, and roles and responsibilities of the Association. A First Nations Health Directors Association is one of four health governance pillars described in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan.

### Children & Families

On July 21 – 23, 2008, the Indigenous Child at the Centre II – BC First Nations Chiefs' Forum was

held at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre. The primary purpose of the Forum was to continue the work arising from the first Indigenous Child at the Centre Forum, held on January 23 – 25, 2008. This second Forum provided the opportunity for First Nations leaders and key technical partners to embark on positive and solution-oriented dialogue concerning the health, safety and well-being of our children, youth, families and communities.

One outcome of the Forum is a "One Heart, One Mind Statement of Solidarity and Cooperation" in which it was affirmed that as Indigenous People, bound by One Heart and One Mind, we affirm our commitment, our unity, and our moral, spiritual, traditional, and political accountability to work together in a Nation-to-Nation and community-driven process to secure the individual and collective survival, dignity and well-being of our children. This Statement was adopted by resolution of the UBCIC and FNS in September 2008.

Through this Statement, Chiefs provided qualified support for the draft Indigenous Child at the Centre Action Plan, subject to the opportunity for further community input through engagement at the UBCIC, FNS and BCAFN meetings. The draft Action Plan has been revised to include all advice and feedback received through breakout groups, written submissions, and delegate workbooks from both Indigenous Child at the Centre Forums. The revised Action Plan is now available for further comment with proposed revisions submitted no later than January 16, 2009. Thereafter, all comments will be incorporated, and a final draft presented at the assemblies of the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC for resolution. For a copy of the draft Action Plan, please visit the website [www.informationbc.ca/child2](http://www.informationbc.ca/child2) or contact the BCAFN, FNS, or UBCIC.

The Statement also supported in-principle the establishment of an Interim First Nations Child and Family Wellness Council

(IFNCFWC). Membership on the interim Council was determined through Regional Caucus sessions during the Forum. To date, the members of the Interim Council are: Chief Betty Patrick, Bev Clifton-Percival, Sandra Jack, Chief Wayne Christian, Chief Robert Pasco, Chief Judy Wilson, Chief Leah George-Wilson, Kathy Bedard Sparrow, Chief Maureen Chapman, Chief Willie Charlie, Chief Bruce Underwood, Chief Bob Chamberlin, Chief Vern Jacks, Chief Wayne Morris, James Wilson, and Marion Right. The Terms of Reference for this IFNCFWC will be considered for resolution of support at the November FNS and UBCIC assemblies.

On October 5, 2008, the IFNCFWC convened for their inaugural meeting at which the members unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to moving forward together, while respecting differences, for the well-being and care of all First Nations children and families. To ensure effective and inclusive communications, the IFNCFWC identified Chief Wayne Christian and Chief Bob Chamberlin as spokespersons.

The IFNCFWC has identified their immediate priorities:

1. In light of the stunning number of First Nations Children in care, to stop the apprehension of First Nations children and to ensure the return of children to their Nations.
2. To address the federal directive 20-1, which clearly underfunds child intervention services.
3. To work with provincial and federal governments and with BC First Nations leaders to develop a child welfare system that is First Nations driven, that respects the diversity of cultures and languages, and that provides a comprehensive framework in which to move forward.
4. To solicit feedback regionally for the draft IFNCFWC Terms of Reference to be

considered for resolution at the November FNS and UBCIC assemblies.

5. To amend the draft Action Plan to reflect further input and feedback from community, front line workers, and leadership.

The next meeting of the IFNCFWC is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The IFNCFWC will report to the assemblies of the BCFAN, FNS, and UBCIC, and will continue to update First Nations via regular communiqués. All relevant materials relating to the Forums and the IFNCFWC have been posted to the following website:  
<http://www.informationbc.ca/child2/>

### **Housing and Infrastructure**

On May 21, 2008, the FNLC, Province of BC and the Government of Canada signed a Housing Memorandum of Understanding to improve coordination and collaboration, and commit the parties to develop complementary on- and off-reserve housing and infrastructure action plans.

The province hosted a series of regional engagement sessions on off-reserve Aboriginal housing across the province. Based on the findings of this engagement, the FNLC, other Aboriginal organizations, and the Province of BC are working to develop the off-reserve Aboriginal housing plan.

The off-reserve Aboriginal housing plan will be coordinated with an on-reserve housing and infrastructure action plan that will be collaboratively developed between First Nations and the federal government. **A province-wide First Nations Housing Forum will be held in February 2009 to receive direction from First Nations on the content of an on-reserve housing and infrastructure action plan.** Further details about this Forum will be provided in the coming weeks.

### **Frank Paul Inquiry**

The Frank Paul inquiry, which began in November, 2007, wrapped up in early May, 2008. The Commissioner

charged with overseeing the inquiry has still yet to release his report, which will include his findings and recommendations. This report will not be considered final as the Crown Prosecutors that dealt with the Frank Paul case have yet to give evidence or testify. The Criminal Justice Branch is appealing a decision handed down by BC Supreme Court upholding the ruling by the Commissioner which would give him the authority to compel prosecutors to testify at the Inquiry. The Criminal Justice Branch believes that no Crown prosecutor should have to testify at this inquiry, as it would have a "chilling effect" on the administration of justice. The appeal of this decision will be heard in the Appeal Court of BC on December 1-3, 2008. Until a decision is handed down, with respect to this appeal, the Commissioner will be unable to complete his report.

Updates on the Frank Paul inquiry can be found at the website [www.frankpaulinquiry.ca](http://www.frankpaulinquiry.ca).

### **BC First Nations Energy Working Group**

In 2007 First Nations gathered at the Chief Joe Mathias Hall to develop the First Nations Energy Action Plan. One of the action items in this plan was to appoint a team of First Nations leaders to engage with the Crown and industry. The following people were appointed:

- **Arnie Bellis:** Vice President, Council of the Haida Nation (appointed by the FNS)
- **Chief Nelson Leon:** Chief of Adams Lake (appointed by the UBCIC)
- **Chief Roland Willson:** Chief of West Moberly (appointed by the BCFAN)
- **Dave Porter:** Chief negotiator of Kaska Dene Council (appointed by the FNLC)

Throughout the summer, a series of meetings with senior representatives from the BC government took place. Based on these discussions, a collaborative work plan has been developed that includes a number of action items mutual to both the BC

First Nations Energy Action Plan and the BC Energy Plan. In addition to these items, the Interim Energy Council and the Province have agreed to work together to jointly engage with the federal government regarding financial support for the Council and its activities, and to jointly engage with industry associations to discuss their support of the First Nations Energy Council.

Over the coming months, a series of regional meetings are proposed that will involve the Interim Energy Council and senior representation from the BC government. Our goal is to receive feedback from the First Nations on the First Nations Energy Action Plan (2007) and provide information on energy related matters.

### **The First Nations Leadership Council**

The FNLC is a political working relationship between the political executives of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC:

- BCAFN Regional Chief A-in-chut, Shawn Atleo;
- FNS Task Group Grand Chief Edward John, Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Dan Smith
- UBCIC President Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Vice-President Chief Robert Shintah, Chief Lynda Price

The FNLC, through the *Leadership Accord*, works together to politically represent the interests of First Nations in BC and develop strategies and actions to bring about significant and substantive changes to government policy that will benefit all First Nations in British Columbia.

### **New Relationship**

In the New Relationship, commitments were made to a new government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights and to reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdictions. The New Relationship acknowledges that aboriginal title includes the inherent right for the *community* to make decisions as to the use of the land.

On September 20, 2007 the FNLC and the Province of BC issued a Joint Statement on the New Relationship highlighting that the Province and FNLC are undertaking work to develop frameworks and tools to assist the Province and BC First Nations to implement the New Relationship. The FNLC and Province respect First Nations autonomy and recognize that First Nations are the holders of Aboriginal Title and Rights. The purpose of the New Relationship is to bring about policy changes and set a course forward that will be of benefit to all First Nations.

The New Relationship must not be used as an excuse not to engage with First Nations directly and the policy level discussions are not intended to impede upon or displace First Nations negotiations with the Crown. In fact, these community-level government-to-government negotiations provide valuable insights and guidance to broader discussions.

Each First Nation has the right to a government-to-government relationship with the Crown, and the authority to enter into negotiations and agreements to suit the unique circumstances of the community.

### **Calendar of Events**

- **November 19-21:** UBCIC Chiefs Council. **November 19** dedicated to C-31 issues. (Kamloops)
- **November 25-26:** All Chiefs' Forum on Recognition Legislation (North Vancouver)
- **November 27-28:** FNS Meeting (North Vancouver)