



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 09/2022

SUBJECT: SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR BC FIRST NATIONS CANNABIS STRATEGY

MOVED BY: CHIEF DON TOM, TSARTLIP FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JEN THOMAS, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

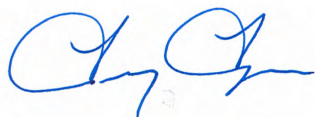
- A. First Nations have the inherent right to govern all aspects of cannabis in their territories, including but not limited to, law-making, regulation, and enforcement regarding the cultivation, processing, distribution, inter-nation trade, sale, and possession and use of cannabis and all its derivatives;
- B. These rights are affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has been made law in British Columbia through the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and in Canada through the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;
- C. However, the governments of British Columbia and Canada do not sufficiently recognize First Nations rights with respect to cannabis;

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- D. Through BCAFN Resolution 2018-03(e) “Engagement with the BC Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat”, BCAFN Resolution 2019-21(b) “BC First Nations Cannabis Framework Action Plan”, and BCAFN Resolution 2021-16 “Support for the Development of a BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy”, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly called on the provincial and federal governments to recognize First Nations jurisdiction, articulated the key challenges faced by First Nations with respect to cannabis, and directed the Regional Chief, working with First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) representatives on the BC-FNLC Joint Working Group on the Legalization and Regulation of Non-Medical Cannabis in BC (JWG) to advance the priorities of First Nations in the sphere of cannabis through the development and implementation of a BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy;
- E. To inform the development of the Strategy the FNLC hosted 5 virtual sessions, invited written feedback, and held one-one meetings to facilitate dialogue among BC First Nations and community members, and gather feedback. The virtual sessions included:
- a. August 10, 2021 Pre-Session focused on providing an orientation to the Strategy development process and seeking preliminary input into the process itself; discussion on key legislative priorities; and feedback on the draft DRIPA action plan.
 - b. November 17, 2021 Engagement Session 1 focused on economic development;
 - c. November 19, 2021 Engagement Session 2 focused on the recognition and implementation of First Nations jurisdiction; and the establishment of a BC First Nations cannabis institution;
 - d. January 13, 2022 Engagement Session 3 focused on taxation and revenue sharing;
 - e. January 26, 2022 Report and Feedback Session focused on gaining feedback on the draft Strategy framework;
- F. Based on the dialogue and feedback collected during the engagement process, a Framework consisting of the Strategy’s Goals and Objectives was developed, and a draft BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy was prepared. The Framework Goals include:
1. Advance the recognition of First Nations inherent jurisdiction over cannabis;
 2. Advance First Nations cannabis taxation and revenue sharing jurisdiction;
 3. Support First Nations cannabis businesses and entrepreneurs through collaborative partnerships and ongoing economic development advocacy work;
 4. Prioritize community safety by ensuring cannabis products meet quality assurance standards. Work collaboratively with BC First Nations and enforcement agencies Provincially and Federally to ensure that First Nations are protected from adversarial activity and criminalization which threatens their self-determination;
 5. Strengthen health and wellness advocacy work through First Nations institutions;

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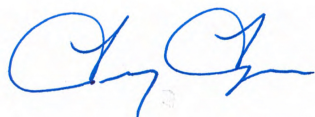
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6. Advance the development of the necessary infrastructure, institutions and other supportive resources that BC First Nations require to be successful in the cannabis market provincially, nationally and internationally.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support in principle the BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy, based on the Strategy Framework and draft BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy, and direct the Regional Chief, working with FNLC and the FNLC representatives on the BC-FNLC Joint Working Group on the Legalization and Regulation of Non-Medical Cannabis in BC (JWG) to advocate for, and pursue effective collaboration and funding for the implementation of the Strategy; and
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and/or FNLC representatives on the JWG to report to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on the implementation of the BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy at an upcoming Chiefs Assembly as soon as practicable.

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