



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



## A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia and as Premier, I am honoured to extend my warmest greetings to all those participating in the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. I also offer my best wishes to the candidates who have put their names forward to serve the BCAFN over the next three years.

While the global pandemic has shifted the ways we connect, it has also amplified the importance of connection. It is in this spirit of cooperation and partnership that our government will work with Indigenous peoples around the province to deliver our recent mandate commitments.

Working together with Indigenous peoples, our government will further self-determination through the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and evolving meaningful shared decision-making; improve Indigenous input on provincial policy and legislation through a new dedicated secretariat; partner to grow the provincial economy; and continue work to enhance cultural revitalization and preservation. We will also expand support for urban Indigenous peoples through Friendship Centres; provide more homes for Indigenous peoples both on-and-off reserve; collaborate to protect the environment; and continue our shared fight to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

An important priority for our government is completing the Action Plan required under the Declaration Act. I raise my hands up to the BCAFN staff and all members of the BCAFN who have been working hard to advance this work in cooperation with our government. The Action Plan will identify tangible activities to advance the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, so that we can all make a real and lasting difference in the lives of Indigenous peoples throughout the province. By working together, we can create a legacy to last for generations to come.

Once again, I wish you a productive and safe Annual General Meeting.

  
HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN  
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA