

# FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

March 22, 2023

## March 29<sup>th</sup> - FNLC All-Chiefs Meeting on *United Nations Declaration Act's* National Action Plan Meeting Package and Information

Chiefs and Leaders,

On June 21, 2021, Canada's *United Nations Declaration Act* came into force. This Act requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to:

- Take all measures necessary to ensure that federal laws are consistent with the Declaration (Section 5);
- Prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration (Section 6); and
- Develop annual reports on progress and submit them to Parliament (section 7).

The deadline for the Canadian government to table a National Action plan to implement the UNDA is June 21, 2023.

On February 16, 2023, the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, issued a Letter of Understanding to the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), which outlines Canada's commitment to a BC-specific bilateral process with the FNLC to identify priorities and actions for UNDA implementation consistent with the direction of First Nations in BC. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Justice released its Draft National Action Plan (NAP) to gather feedback from Indigenous peoples across the country.

To assist First Nations in BC's engagement with this process, the FNLC has prepared the attached Draft FNLC Priorities Paper to articulate some of the key issues facing First Nations in BC and associated priorities. The FNLC is asking First Nations leaders to review this draft paper and submit suggested revisions or additions to the FNLC by April 7<sup>th</sup> for inclusion into the FNLC submission to the Department of Justice.

The FNLC will be hosting an All-Chief Forum on March 29<sup>th</sup>, in Vancouver for Chiefs, political representatives and designated technicians of First Nations in BC, to dialogue on the UNDA and the FNLC Draft Priorities Paper, whereafter the paper will be revised to reflect the dialogue and submitted to the Department of Justice.

In addition, to assist First Nations in developing their own priorities and positions for inclusion into the UNDA NAP, the BCAFN legal and policy team has prepared an Options Paper which contains possible recommendations and priorities to help inform First Nations' submissions through Canada's UNDA NAP engagement process.

This package contains the following documents:

1. All-Chiefs' Meeting on *United Nations Declaration Act's* National Action Plan Agenda;
2. FNLC Draft "Priorities Paper on the UNDA NAP";
3. BCAFN "Implementation Options Paper United Nations Declaration Act – National Action Plan";
4. Department of Justice Canada's Draft UNDA Action Plan;
5. Department of Justice Canada's What We [Learned to Date](#) report;

Suggested revisions and additions to the FNLC Draft "Priorities Paper on the UNDA NAP" can be sent to [matthew.norris@bcfn.ca](mailto:matthew.norris@bcfn.ca)

Registration and additional information for the FNLC All-Chiefs Meeting on *United Nations Declaration Act's* National Action Plan can be found at: <https://events.bcafn.ca/unda-forum-2023/>



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