

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



REGIONAL CHIEF'S QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE CHIEFS OF BC

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PART ONE: *BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS* – IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

The focus of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) continues to be implementation of the *Building on OUR Success* platform (updated 2012) and consisting of four key and interrelated areas. These are:

1. **Strong and Appropriate Governance** in order to take advantage of our opportunities in implementing our Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights, and grow our economies by providing stable and sound governance that is transparent and accountable to our Citizens;
2. **Fair Access to Land and Resources** to ensure our peoples and our governments have access to the resources required to support our societies including both our traditional and modern economies;
3. **Improved Education** to ensure our Citizens are able to make informed decisions about change as well as participate in our growing economies and our governments; and,
4. **Individual Health** to address the colonial health legacies to ensure our Citizens are strong and can actually benefit from and enjoy their title and rights.

With respect to the four key areas, the following remains the basis for the Nation building/re-building Action Plan at the BCAFN:

1. **Understand and identify** the specific priorities for each of our Nations.
2. **Assist** each Nation in charting their own critical path in order to be able to benefit from opportunities, capitalize on success and ensure that the doors are open to move forward with their specific priorities.
3. **Support and facilitate** each Nation in developing and maintaining strong and open relationships with Ottawa and Victoria to ensure that they can advance their own issues directly with the Crown.
4. **Develop and implement** a province-wide participation and communication strategy to maintain networks between Nations and ensure that no single community is left out or behind.

1. **Strong and Appropriate Governance**



“Strong and appropriate governance is necessary if our Nations are to reach our full potential and maximize our opportunities. This is a prerequisite to sustainable and long-term economic development.” Building on OUR Success

BCAFN Governance Toolkit – A Guide to Nation Building in Three Parts: Over the last three years, the BCAFN has worked with BC First Nations to develop the *Governance Toolkit: A Guide to Nation Building*, in three parts. All three parts of the Toolkit (Part 1—*The Governance Report*, Part 2—*The Governance Self–Assessment* and Part 3—*A Guide to Community Engagement: Navigating Our Way Through the Post-Colonial Door*) are available on our BCAFN website at www.bcafn.ca, where they can be downloaded in full or in part.

As stated in my last quarterly report, we have begun work on a second edition of the *Governance Report*. The second edition will include new analysis, laws, by-laws and agreements. We will be launching the second edition along with additional Community Engagement tools at our BCAFN Special Chiefs' Assembly this coming November, 2013. Our office continues to call on the experience and expertise of our Nations to help us in this important work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the Toolkit, or ideas about how the content can be made stronger based on the experiences of your own Nation.

Earlier this year, I was pleased to accept the invitation of Chief Russ Ross of Yunesit'in First Nation to facilitate a two-day governance self-assessment with their Nation. Yunesit'in joins the company of many of our Nations from across BC who are undertaking important Nation building and rebuilding work. If your Nation is interested in conducting a self-assessment and would like the BCAFN to assist please contact our offices.

Bill S-212: An Act providing for the recognition of self-governing First Nations of Canada (Self-Government Recognition Act): The *Indian Act* is a barrier to our efforts to rebuild our Nations and is the antithesis of 'self-government'. At the BCAFN we continue with our work to, "explore options that would facilitate the recognition of our appropriate institutions of governance and the smooth transition from any existing structures that are superseded." (BCAFN Resolution 04/2011). One of our strategies, has been to develop federal self-government recognition legislation so that when, as an exercise of self-determination, a Nation is ready to be recognized by Canada as "self-governing" there is a clear legal mechanism for Canada to recognize that First Nation and to remove the application of most parts of the *Indian Act* from that First Nation and its citizens. The bill we helped develop, *Bill S-212: An Act providing for the recognition of self-governing First Nations of Canada*, was introduced on November 1, 2012. However, as *Bill S-212*, is not a government sponsored bill it has, unfortunately, fallen off the order paper. Our efforts are now directed at revising the bill after further input from our Nations and getting it reintroduced; probably in the next parliament.

At the recent BCAFN Strategic Dialogue Session, May 29-30, 2013 (which is discussed in more detail further in this report), we were able to hear from many of you regarding *Bill S-212*, and the potential for recognition legislation more generally. Overwhelmingly, we heard messages of support, and some advice regarding possible revisions and efforts to see recognition legislation successfully move through the Senate and House. I anticipate that we will have an opportunity to discuss this bill and other mechanisms to move beyond the *Indian Act* at the upcoming Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly in Whitehorse, as well as at our BCAFN Annual General Meeting on June 26-27, 2013.

Of course, securing appropriate self-government recognition legislation is only a small part of the work that is needed to support our Nations moving away from governance under the *Indian Act*. The hard work, if we are to succeed, is back home in each of our communities, where through the development of First Nation constitutions, and through building citizen confidence in moving to a post *Indian Act* system of governance. To make recognition legislation and, more importantly, self-government, a reality will require considerable effort from us all, and political dedication at all levels. If you have questions about what work has been undertaken thus far, or want to be a part of the work moving forward, please contact me directly. This remains a priority.

Federal Legislative Agenda: Despite our efforts to convince Canada to support a legislative agenda that meets our needs to rebuild our Nations, Canada continues to follow its own legislative agenda that, if unchallenged, could override First Nations' jurisdiction and continue to impose on us governance structures based on federal policy direction. Action Item #4 from the AFN Consensus Document specifically requires that all federal legislation must be unquestionably consistent with section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I continue to hold the First Nations Governance portfolio with the AFN National Executive, and as such, work with the National Chief and other members of the AFN executive in advocating our Nation building agenda in committee, as various pieces of legislation make their way through parliament. Many of our Chiefs and other leaders in BC have also prioritized this work, and have taken forward our experience and expertise in BC to Ottawa to present at various committees and panels. Below is a brief summary of current activities around specific legislation. Though no official announcement has been made, there has been some suggestion that Prime Minister Harper will prorogue parliament before the summer. Proroguing parliament ends a parliamentary session and permits the government to start a new session when parliament resumes. This action would mean that any legislation currently making its way through parliament would die on the order paper. I will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. The national AFN also provides weekly parliamentary updates that are available at www.afn.ca.

Bill C- 27: First Nation Financial Transparency Act: *Bill C-27: An Act to enhance the financial accountability and transparency of First Nations* has now passed into law. The bill had been passed in the House of Commons, and passed third reading in the Senate on March 26, 2013. The Act received Royal Assent on March 27, 2013. The new act requires First Nations to disclose the salaries and other remuneration and expenses of the Chief and Councillors as well as disclose financial information about corporate entities controlled by the Nation. As I set out in my testimony to the Senate Committee, this act does not address the substantive issues facing our governments with respect to accountability and only deals superficially with reporting and what is 'public'. While First Nations have affirmed the importance of accountability and transparency to their citizens, this new act does not make significant strides in that direction. The transcripts for that presentation are available on the national AFN website, www.afn.ca. As the Bill is now law, each First Nation will be required to comply. There are, I understand, going to be legal challenges to the act. The act does not apply to self-governing First Nations; another good reason to be self-governing.

Bill C-62: Yale First Nation Final Agreement Act: Bill C-62 was introduced on May 31, 2013 and is currently under review by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples and Northern Development. This bill, once passed, would enact the Yale First Nation Final Agreement.

Bill C-428: An Act to Amend the Indian Act (publication of by-laws) and to Provide for its Replacement: This short private members bill sponsored by MP Rob Clarke, would require the Minister to report to Parliament on progress made to get rid of the *Indian Act*, and seeks to make changes to the *Indian Act*, which, although relatively minor, would not be optional for our First Nations. The bill was not really very well thought through, and as I said in my testimony to Committee, was being very cavalier with our future. The bill has now completed study by the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and is being reported back to the House of Commons with amendments. Thankfully these amendments get rid of some of the most egregious and poorly considered sections. This includes removal of the bill's repeal of sections related to wills and estates in the *Indian Act*, as well as removal of the repeal of First Nations' authority for by-laws restricting intoxicants. Also, the requirement that all First Nations bylaws, in their entirety, be printed in a local newspaper has been reconsidered. The proposed amendments to the bill do reflect the testimony of myself, and others, who appeared before committee, but they really do not go far enough, and certainly do not reflect the recognition of First Nations' inherent right to self-government. This bill attempts to address matters that are more thoughtfully and holistically dealt with from the perspective of "recognition", under the approach we take in Bill S-212, the proposed First Nations' self-government recognition act. On April 17, 2013, I did meet with MP Rob Clarke in Ottawa to discuss his bill in advance of my presentation before Committee. My full presentation to committee on Bill C-428 is available on our BCAFN website at www.bcafn.ca.

Bill C-469: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act: Bill C-469, another private members bill, was introduced on January 28, 2013 by Romeo Saganash (NDP MP, Abitibi – Baie-James – Nunavik – Eeyou), but has not yet moved to second reading. The bill requires the Government of Canada to take all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and further that the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada must prepare an annual report to Parliament for the next four years reviewing progress in terms of the implementation of this law.

Bill S-2: Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act: Bill S-2 is a government sponsored bill. On May 2, 2013, I presented before the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women on Bill S-2. My full presentation is available on our BCAFN website at www.bcafn.ca. On May 21, 2013, the committee finished its review of the bill and on May 23, 2013, reported back to the House of Commons without amendments. Canada's intention to enact legislation in the area of matrimonial property is, of course, not new. While we all appreciate that there is a legal gap in the *Indian Act* that needs to be filled when it comes to matrimonial real property (MRP) law, it must be our governments, not Canada, that fill it. Our criticism of the federal government's approach with Bill S-2, as with a

number of other federal bills that make up the current federal legislative agenda, is not with the intent to fix the *Indian Act* problem, but rather with how the current government considers it acceptable to design MRP solutions, and ultimately our post-colonial governance relating to MRP for us. The national AFN continues to encourage First Nations to work with our citizens to enact our own laws or codes in this area in advance of this bill coming into force. For more information see the national AFN website (www.afn.ca) and also the relevant section on the BCAFN Governance Toolkit on matrimonial property at www.bcafn.ca.

Bill S-6: First Nations Elections Act: Bill S-6 has already passed through the Senate and was, as many of you know, introduced at first reading in the House of Commons in May of last year. On May 28, 2013, Bill S-6 began debates at second reading. Bill S-6 is opt-in legislation for First Nations who conduct their elections under the *Indian Act*, and would extend the election term from two to four years, among other changes. The AFN has recognized and echoed in Committee the concerns that have been expressed about provisions in the bill that empower the Minister of AANDC to order a First Nation under the act, including one that conducts custom elections, in the event of a dispute or where an election has been overturned by the Governor-in-Council.

Bill S-8: Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Legislation: Bill S-8 passed second reading on May 8, 2013 and has been referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples and Northern Development for study. The bill has now completed clause-by-clause review by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples and Northern Development and has been reported back to the House of Commons with amendments that remove inclusion of self-governing First Nations. Other amendments responding to concerns raised by First Nations were voted down. The AFN is encouraging all First Nations interested in providing a submission or presenting to the committee to contact the clerk directly at aano@parl.gc.ca. This bill does not recognize First Nations jurisdiction over the purveying of water on-reserve, but rather sets up an administrative regime under the jurisdiction of Canada based on standards to be developed by Canada and also establishes that federal regulations may incorporate, by reference, provincial regulations. Again, the intent is good, safe drinking water on-reserve, but the execution lacking. This is going to be a very expensive law to implement.

Bill S-207: Act to Amend the Interpretation Act (Non-Derogation of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights): Bill S-207 would amend the *Interpretation Act* (which governs the implementation of all laws) to provide that no enactment be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the Aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Bill S-207 has now completed review by the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and on April 18, 2013, reported to the Senate. The bill now awaits debates at report stage and third reading. Non-derogation clauses are important and we generally favour them in our agreements and in all pieces of legislation. However, one has to be careful, that in their construction, they do not have any unintended consequence with respect to protecting, preserving and ultimately recognizing aboriginal and treaty rights.

Engagement with the Province: On May 14, 2013, British Columbians went to the polls for the 40th provincial general election. The 2013 election results defied the predictions of pollsters and political pundits, and indeed many of our own leaders, and saw Christy Clark return to office with a strong mandate: the Liberals winning 50 seats in the BC Legislative Assembly, the New Democrats winning 33 seats, the Green Party winning 1 seat, and 1 seat going to an independent candidate. Premier Clark has announced that she will name her new cabinet on June 7, 2013, and, like many of you, I am anxious to know who will be named to cabinet and thus who we will be looking to work with on many of our key issues moving forward. The First Nations Leadership Council has requested a timely meeting with Premier Clark, and I see this as an opportunity to reset our relationship and work to achieve the high level political engagement of this Premier and her cabinet with our Nations on key issues moving forward over the next four years. The Premier described herself as a champion of revenue sharing at the recent “Council of the Federation” meetings, and at previous meetings with the First Nations Leadership Council, she reflected on revenue sharing being a key part to unlocking economic development opportunities in the province. I intend to work to see that space is created for our BC First Nations to dialogue directly with this new government on the critical issues linked to revenue sharing and a new fiscal relationship between our Nations and the provincial government. As I have stated before, our fiscal relationship with the Province, which includes revenue sharing in the case of some of our Nations, is key to our ongoing efforts at Nation building and rebuilding. At the January 11, 2013 meeting in Ottawa, the Prime Minister noted the importance that resource revenue sharing represents to First Nations and our economies. He indicated the need for provinces and territories to be engaged in the dialogue, and on this point, I agree. I hope that BC will take a lead if these discussions move forward nationally.

2. Fair Access to Lands and Resources

Strong & Appropriate
Governance


Fair Lands &
Resources


Improved
Education


Individual
Health


“Settlement of the land question remains fundamental to the overall success of our Nations in BC. Without adequate access to land and resources our Nations will never reach our full potential. In addition to sustaining our traditional practices, access to land and access to resources provides our capital – our equity – and therefore our ability to build our economies and support our government.” Building on OUR Success

Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline and Major Development Projects: Given major development projects were front and center during the BC Election, it can be said that balancing major resource development, often referred to in the context of building the Canadian economy, and the environment is increasingly becoming the question of our time. This is true for the Canadian and BC public at large, and is especially true for our citizens and Nations, as it impacts directly on our Aboriginal rights and title, including treaty rights. Our Nations’ concerns over what appears to be increasing major development projects on our territories represent a fundamental element of the AFN Consensus Document and were of course an impetus for the meeting with the Prime Minister on January 11, 2013.

In 2012, the Clark government issued 5 conditions that would need to be met in order for the province to support heavy pipeline development projects, such as the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline project. As recently as May 18, 2013, the province indicated that the government's five conditions have not been met in relation to the Enbridge project, and specifically, the condition that First Nations have appropriate opportunities to participate in any heavy pipeline proposal has not been satisfactorily met.

On April 12, 2013, the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project Joint Review Panel (JRP) issued potential conditions for the project in the case that it is approved. The potential conditions cover areas of the project including engineering, spill response, and socio-economic and environmental requirements. If the project is approved, the National Energy Board is responsible for verifying and enforcing compliance. The release of potential conditions does not impact the final decision of the JRP. Releasing potential conditions is a standard and legally mandated part of the overall process that gives all interveners, government participants, and the applicant the opportunity to provide comments and suggest additional conditions for consideration during the Panel's hearings. A list of the conditions can be found at: www.gatewaypanel.review.gc.ca. If you are an intervener, you can submit suggestions before May 31, 2013. The JRP has now completed the questioning phase of the hearing process. The next phase will be the final hearings for final argument. Oral responses will begin in Terrace, B.C. on June 17, 2013 and are expected to last two weeks.

The Kinder Morgan tanker expansion was also a key issue heading into the BC Election. The public appreciation of this issue can be attributed, in part, to the work of many of our citizens who have participated in raising awareness. On April 19, 2013, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, in partnership with the City of Vancouver and City of Burnaby, hosted a West Coast Oil and Pipeline Summit, which featured key speakers on the topic of defining future energy alternatives and policies. Each party was pushed to reflect on and speak to its respective position on tanker expansion in the Burrard Inlet.

The on-going developments with respect to major development projects tell me that we are reaching a defining moment in what is already a very exciting and critical time of Nation building and rebuilding. Needless to say, there is much work ahead for our Nations and citizens to create space for open dialogue and strategizing around how to move forward; to further develop the vision with respect to balancing our Nations' economic needs, through fair access to lands and resources, with sustainability of the environment, through the protection of our lands and water. As we move forward, seeking ways to support our citizens with the challenges of major development projects, we will continue our discussion with the Prime Minister's office around the 8 Action Items from the AFN Consensus Document.

Appointment of Government of Canada's Special Federal Representative on West Coast Energy Infrastructure, Doug Eyford: On March 18, 2013, the government of Canada announced the appointment of Vancouver lawyer Doug Eyford as the Government of Canada's Special Federal Representative on West Coast Energy Infrastructure. The intention being, according to Canada, that Mr. Eyford work with BC Nations in addressing concerns regarding the impacts of

the proposed pipeline projects and other energy infrastructure projects in their territories. I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Eyford on April 2, 2013, where we talked about his role, timelines and the nature of his interim and final reports. Of course, economic benefits through job creation and resource revenue sharing must not come at the expense of the environmental conditions of our Nations' territories, and when it comes to west coast energy infrastructure, Mr. Eyford has his work cut out for him. Ultimately, accommodating our Nations can only occur with recognition of our rights followed by reconciliation with the Crown and this was one of the main messages I emphasized with Mr. Eyford. I look forward to reading his preliminary report which is anticipated at the end of June, and in our initial meeting I expressed my own desire that it would be made public.

William v. British Columbia, 2012 BCCA 285: A year ago, the BC Court of Appeal released their decision in *William v. British Columbia*. In their decision, the court concluded with respect to Aboriginal title that title is not throughout the whole territory of the Xeni Gwet'in, but limited to areas of more intensive use historically (village sites, salt licks, fishing rocks, farm lands etc.). The Tsilhqot'in filed an application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, and leave was granted by the Supreme Court of Canada on January 24, 2013. Currently, the hearing is scheduled for November 7, 2013. As there is the potential for a Constitutional Question to be raised, the Attorneys General of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec have all filed applications to intervene. On the Tsilhqot'in side, potential interveners are currently meeting to strategize and are preparing to file. I am pleased to say that the Assembly of First Nations' National Executive unanimously passed a motion directing the AFN to apply to intervene on this important case. BCAFN's involvement in the case is being guided by the BCAFN legal and political strategy adopted last year by the Chiefs. It is expected that others may join the AFN or look to apply to intervene on their own. Along with intervening, the AFN is committed to undertaking a coordinating role across the country to link together those who may be interested in applying to intervene. Please feel free to contact myself directly, or Courtney Daws in our office (courtney.daws@bcfn.ca) if your Nation or organization is intending to apply to intervene.

The AFN is also undertaking the role of communicating information about the importance of this case to citizens, both First Nations and non-First Nations, across the country. The AFN is coordinating with other organizations and universities to hold discussion forums and send out communications in the five months leading up to the hearing in November. I anticipate that this case will be a major topic of conversation at the upcoming AFN AGA, July 16-18, 2013, in Whitehorse, and at our BCAFN AGM in June.

Your thoughts on how best to proceed are most welcome and I would like to hear from you if your Nation is intending to apply to intervene as we look to coordinate our efforts to ensure that the Court takes Aboriginal perspectives and the need for true reconciliation into account when it is asked to determine the scope and extent of Aboriginal title.

Federal Comprehensive Claims Policy and the Senior Oversight Committee (CC SOC): In the area of comprehensive claims, Canada has adopted policies to negotiate settlements, including negotiating modern treaties that seek to address un-extinguished Aboriginal title and other

rights. These policies are collectively referred to as the “comprehensive claims policy” (CCP). Please see the BCAFN website at <http://bcafn.ca/files/2013-05-BCAFN-SDS.php> for a complete list and copies of Canada’s publicly available CCP policy documents. It is the view of many First Nations in BC, and indeed across Canada, that fair, just and lasting settlements are not possible under the existing CCP. Thus, the need for fundamental change to Canada’s CCP was a position taken forward first to the First Nations-Crown Gathering in 2012, and later to the January 11, 2013 meeting with the Prime Minister. At the January 11, 2013 meeting CCP reform was expressed as a matter of critical concern as Action Item #2 of the AFN Consensus Document:

Facilitating fair, expeditious resolution of land claims through reforming the comprehensive claims policy based on recognition and affirmation of inherent rights rather than extinguishment.

The Prime Minister agreed that it would be useful to establish “high level dialogue on the issues of Comprehensive Claims and Treaty Implementation” between First Nations and his government, and, moreover, that there was a need to provide enhanced oversight from the Prime Minister’s Office and the Privy Council Office on these matters. This acknowledgement of the Prime Minister led to the creation of two Senior Oversight Committees (SOCs) dealing with 1) Treaty Implementation, and 2) Fair Resolution of the Land Question, in particular Canada’s comprehensive land claims policy. The National Chief asked myself and Regional Chief Ghislain Picard of Quebec to act as the AFN leads on the Comprehensive Claims SOC.

On April 12, 2013, Bernard Valcourt, the newly appointed Minister for AANDC met with myself, the National Chief and members of the First Nations Leadership Council in Vancouver. After this meeting, Minister Valcourt issued a statement from his office recommitting to changing the government’s comprehensive claims policy – something that has not been done since 1993. Minister Valcourt’s statement, as well as the AFN press release, are available on our website at <http://bcafn.ca/files/2013-05-BCAFN-SDS.php/>.

The Comprehensive Claims Senior Oversight Committee (CCP SOC): The Comprehensive Claims SOC includes senior people from the Prime Minister’s Office, the Privy Council Office, the Minister of AANDC’s office, AANDC and the AFN. It has met three times with the most recent meeting on May 1, 2013. The next meeting planned for mid-June. I am pleased that my colleagues on the First Nations Leadership Council, Grand Chief Ed John and Chief Doug White, were able to attend the May 1 meeting of CCP SOC. We have communicated to the Prime Minister’s Office that our expectation is that the work of the SOC be concluded within a year.

I look forward to being able to report back to you on further progress at our BCAFN Special Chiefs’ Assembly and Annual General Meeting on June 26-27, 2013. While we have received positive indications from both the Prime Minister’s and Minister Valcourt Offices that this work will be prioritized, the responsibility rests squarely on our shoulders to keep the pressure on, to do the difficult work, and to continue to reach out to First Nations leadership here in BC and across the country for feedback and support in moving the work forward.

Canada's new 'comprehensive claims' policy or policies must be based on recognition and reconciliation and ensure that all of our Nations can address their title and rights issues, regardless of whether or not they are participating in treaty negotiations under the BC Treaty Process. Mechanisms and varied options for reconciliation must be available to all. To this end, at the last CCP SOC meeting, we discussed the possibility of a statement from the Prime Minister committing Canada to CCP review and reform based specifically on the principles of recognition and reconciliation.

BCAFN Strategic Dialogue Session—Discussion on Comprehensive Claims: On May 9-10, 2013, the BCAFN held a Strategic Dialogue Session at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. The main focus for the first day and a half was on Canada's comprehensive claims policy and processes. In order to guide the discussion the participants were given a number of questions to consider that were set out in a *BCAFN Discussion Guide on a Proposed New Federal Policy: Canada's Approach to Recognition and Reconciliation with the First Nations of Canada* ("BCAFN Discussion Guide"). Firstly, thank you to all those who took the time to be present and participate in this important discussion. My intention is that this solution-focused session will be the first of many like it, structured to encourage dialogue and the sharing of information and ideas about First Nations solutions and strategies from our BC First Nation leadership. I was pleased, as I know that many of you were, that Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde from Saskatchewan, and Regional Chief Cameron Alexis from Alberta could be present with us and share perspectives from their own communities and the First Nations for whom they represent.

It is also the intention of myself and my colleagues at the AFN Executive Committee that similar strategic dialogue sessions will be held for Quebec and elsewhere across Canada where the comprehensive claims policy has relevance.

Moving forward, the BCAFN will be taking what we heard at our strategic dialogue session and revising the BCAFN Discussion Guide. This revised BCAFN Discussion Guide will be presented and discussed further at our upcoming BCAFN Annual General Meeting, June 26-27, 2013, at the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond. I will be also be hosting a peer review of the policy documents, as we did with Bill S-212, that will include lawyers, academics, former civil servants, leaders and rights practitioners.

It is my hope that the Discussion Guide, once the questions contained therein have been fully considered, can be used as the basis for drafting instructions for a new policy.

The Comprehensive Claims Working Group (CCPWG): An ad hoc Comprehensive Claims Working Group (CCPWG) continues to support the work of the National AFN office and remains another forum for discussion among our Nations on the revision to the CCP. The CCPWG, in advance of the January 11, 2013, meeting with the Prime Minister, met and identified/reconfirmed a set of six key issues that should be part of CCP reform. Briefly, these were: 1) fiscal arrangements; 2) shared territory; 3) recognition and reconciliation; 4) the status of lands; 5) self-government; and, 6) certainty.

Treaty Implementation Senior Oversight Committee (TI SOC): In addition to establishing a high level mechanism to deal with comprehensive claims policy, the Prime Minister agreed at the January 11, 2013 meeting with First Nation leaders, to create a senior oversight committee for Action Item #1—Treaty Implementation:

Action Item #1: Commitment to an immediate high level working process with Treaty Nation leadership for establishing frameworks with necessary mandates for the implementation and enforcement of Treaties on a Treaty by Treaty basis, between the Treaty parties Nation-to-Nation.

The National Chief asked Regional Chiefs’ Perry Bellegarde and Cameron Alexis to act as AFN leads on this committee. On March 26-27, 2013, the AFN held a National Treaty Forum at Whitecap Dakota First Nation, in Saskatchewan. This national forum was aimed at having a full discussion on the required next steps for the full implementation and enforcement of Treaties on a Treaty by Treaty basis and as a way to prepare for the TI SOC. The upcoming AFN AGA in Whitehorse will be an opportunity for the Regional Chiefs to report out to the Chiefs-in-Assembly about this work directly. As many of you heard from Regional Chief Bellegarde at our BCAFN Strategic Dialogue Session, the Treaty Implementation SOC has met once since it was created, and work continues to align the interests of all Treaty Nations.

I will continue to keep you updated as work progresses, and hope that many of you will be present at the AFN AGM in Whitehorse to hear directly from those most closely involved in this work. Those with historic Treaties, those with new or modern Treaties and those negotiating or outside of a Treaty process share many common challenges and opportunities when it comes to federal policy reform. This is one of the messages that emerged at our BCAFN Strategic Dialogue Session, and I am committed to working with our Treaty leadership in BC and across the country in a coordinated fashion as we move forward in our discussions with Canada around comprehensive claims policy renewal and reform.

Fisheries: Fish, fisheries and fish management will of course continue to be a priority for our Nations, and the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) continues to work at strengthening the governance of their council to support the work of our Nations. The FNFC has undertaken to develop and sign charters with regional fisheries organizations, and currently, 120 BC First Nations are engaged in this work with the FNFC through the charter signing process. The FNFC has continued to work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) department staff on a potential MOU between DFO and the First Nations Leadership Council. At our recent meeting with Minister Valcourt, the First Nations Leadership Council urged the Minister to put pressure on DFO to finalize this important MOU. I hope to be able to deliver a positive update on this work in the near future.

With changes to the *Fisheries Act* last year through omnibus legislation, the FNFC as well as the AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit, have been active in working together, and with the Atlantic Policy Congress, to compile a strategic response to the legislative, and now regulatory changes that are resulting. If you are interested in becoming involved in this work or would like more information, please contact the First Nations Fisheries Council directly.

In our work nationally on comprehensive claims reform, the area of fisheries, perhaps more than any other area, speaks to the need for any new federal policy to cut across all government departments. As we have discussed there is a need for any new federal comprehensive claims policy to consider an accountability framework that cuts across government departments, with emphasis on an all-of-government approach and commitment to recognition and reconciliation. Additionally, because fish management, like some other subject areas, cuts across geographical boundaries, any new approach must be reflective of how Canada may enter into reconciliation arrangements, such as co-management agreements, that extend beyond the somewhat artificial boundaries created by particular agreements.

BC First Nations' Right to Water Workshop, March 22, 2013: On World Water Day, March 22, 2013, the First Nations Leadership Council held a one-day BC First Nations' Right to Water Workshop at Musqueam First Nation. The meeting was an opportunity for our leadership to talk about current water issues for BC First Nations, and also to review and discuss the *Draft BC First Nations Water Rights Strategy*. The First Nations Leadership Council has been working to revise the strategy document, based on discussions at the workshop and also based on feedback received from communities through submissions following the meeting. I look forward to being able to continue discussions around the revised paper. If you have questions about the draft strategy document or have further input please contact Alyssa Melnyk at our office (Alyssa.Melnyk@bcfn.ca).

Roundtable with Australian Indigenous Delegates on Economic Development, April 3, 2013: On April 3, 2013, I had the opportunity to participate at a roundtable on Indigenous Economic Development with Australian delegates at UBC. The meeting was chaired by the Governor General of Australia, and prominent Australian delegates in attendance included Dr. Dawn Casey, Tony Wurrumarrba, and Jack Manning Bancroft. I was pleased that BC First Nations leaders also took the time to participate in the discussion. The Australian delegates were looking to engage in a discussion around Indigenous economic development, land and land use issues, and, although the meeting was brief, I think it afforded the opportunity for connections to be made and hopefully for further follow up on both sides moving ahead. Through the discussion it was clear that many of the challenges faced by our Nations in BC and Canada, are shared by Australia's Indigenous peoples, whose history of colonization and imposed structures of governance is not dissimilar.

3. Improved Education

Strong & Appropriate
Governance

Fair Lands &
Resources

Improved
Education

Individual
Health

“To make the most of opportunities resulting from fair land and resource settlements and true self-determination we need well educated and well trained citizens.” Building on OUR Success

Federal First Nations Education Legislation: Nationally, the conversation around federal education legislation remains a challenge. In BC, we are very fortunate to have organizations

like the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and the First Nations Student Association (FNSA) striving to support better educational outcomes for our citizens. Through historical agreements like the BC Tri-partite Education Agreement, we are achieving much in BC with great potential, if not fully realised yet. Unfortunately, the federal government's current legislative agenda regarding First Nations education, could threaten the progress that we have made and are looking to continue, based on our own First Nations' developed solutions. Federal legislation on education, which, if not optional, and not respectful of our approach in BC, would be highly problematic. We need to ensure that our views are not only listened to, but acted upon, and that the drafting of any national sectoral education legislation involves our Nations, and does not compromise our vision for self-government and Indian control of Indian Education.

AANDC originally announced that they will be undertaking limited consultations for development of their proposed education legislation and that the consultation process would consist of two stages: 1) Between December 2012 and April 2013, a series of meetings with First Nation leaders, principals, teachers, parents, elders and community members; and 2) Following these consultative meetings, Canada would employ the feedback received in drafting of proposed First Nation education legislation.

As you know, some of our Nations and citizens were invited to participate in a dialogue session hosted by AANDC on Federal Education Legislation on March 8, 2013. The session was held in Vancouver and was a part of what AANDC terms its "consultation process" – a process that both FNESC and FNSA have continually communicated is not extensive enough. Through their position paper titled, *The British Columbia First Nations Education System and the proposed National First Nations Education Legislation*, FNESC and FNSA have sought to engage AANDC on the concerns of BC First Nations around the consultation process for First Nations education legislation. This paper, and more information about the national legislation, are available on FNESC's website at <http://www.fnesc.ca/national-legislation>.

At the time of writing, "consultative" meetings have occurred in seven cities throughout Canada. Unfortunately, we have yet to receive notice on the next part of the process, including clarification on whether the proposed legislation would be "opt-in" or if the legislation will be co-authored with First Nations. Both points are necessary for a process that is acceptable to our Nations. I will continue to provide updates on this important work. For the most current information please contact the First Nations Education Steering Committee.

Finally, education is one of the jurisdictions included in Bill S-212, *The Self-government Recognition Act*, and we should not lose sight of how education, like all other sectoral areas of jurisdiction, is fundamentally tied to a conversation on governance reform generally and how we rebuild our Nations.

Truth and Reconciliation and Indian Residential Schools: As I set out in *Building on our Success*, supporting the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is critical for many of our citizens to overcome the legacy of residential schools, which includes those who were day-

schooled. Education and well-being are inextricably linked when we talk about reconciliation in the context of residential schools and day schools.

On April 30, 2013, Canada's Auditor General, Michael Ferguson, tabled a report which included a review of work done to date to accomplish the goals set forward in the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). The report included detailed analysis on where procedural challenges have limited the ability of the TRC and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to, as mandated by the IRSSA, create an historic record of Indian Residential Schools and establish a National Research Center to host this record. Most of the noted challenges included logistical challenges around the collection and transfer of the documents, and establishing mutually agreeable timelines and project definitions.

Following the report, both the TRC and AANDC have set forward their commitments to address the gaps in communication and procedure.

National Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Event in Vancouver – September 2013: Planning continues for the TRC's National Event "A New Way Forward" taking place September 18-21, 2013 at the PNE Fairgrounds in Vancouver. Logistics are still being finalized and more information will be made available soon on the TRC website at www.trc.ca. In the meantime, the TRC continues to conduct "Share Your Truth" hearings across the country and have recently been in Williams Lake (May 16-18) and Kamloops (May 28-29).

As I have mentioned in previous reports, Reconciliation Canada has also been planning events to support the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission National event in September. Reconciliation Canada is a charitable project established as a collaboration between the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society (IRSSS) and Tides Canada Initiatives Society (TCI) and is mandated to carry forward reconciliation dialogue activities in the Province of British Columbia by the executives of the First Nations Summit, the BC Assembly of First Nations and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (collectively known as the First Nations Leadership Council). We are so pleased that Hereditary Chief and Elder Robert Joseph was able to speak to our young people at the BCAFN Lower Mainland Regional Youth Forum about the legacy of residential schools and the work ahead to ensure every citizen has the resources and opportunities to seek reconciliation. The week of the TRC National Event will begin with an All Nations Canoe Gathering on September 17, 2013, and conclude with a Walk for Reconciliation in Downtown Vancouver on September 22, 2013. For more information, including volunteer opportunities, or to register for the Walk for Reconciliation, please see www.reconciliationcanada.ca.

In honor of these reconciliation events and to build on the recommendations of the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee (UAPAC), the city of Vancouver has announced its intention to proclaim June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014 as the official Year of Reconciliation for Vancouver. The intent of this designation is to build, in partnership with Reconciliation Canada and the UAPAC, opportunities for open dialogue which support the rights and aspirations of Aboriginal people living in and around Vancouver.

We will keep you updated on any new developments and continue to support the work of both the TRC and Reconciliation Canada.

4. Individual Health

Strong & Appropriate
Governance


Fair Lands &
Resources


Improved
Education


Individual
Health


“In order to take advantage of our very real opportunities arising from the settlement of land claims and self-determination we need strong families and healthy citizens.”

2011 National Household Survey: On May 8, 2013 Statistics Canada released its *2011 National Household Survey* which includes census data on topics such as the living arrangements of Aboriginal children, traditional languages, on-reserve data, and population statistics. The census data provides insight into the shifting demographics of our citizens and communities. For ease of reference, below are some of the highlights from the 2011 census survey:

- 1.4 million people reported an Aboriginal identity in 2011, representing 4.3% of the total Canadian population. This represents an increase from 3.8% in 2006.
- Of the 1.4 million, 60.8% identified as First Nations, 32.3% identified as Métis, and 4.2% identified as Inuit.
- Children aged 14 and under accounted for more than 25% of the Aboriginal population, compared to 16.5% of the non-Aboriginal population.
- Seniors aged 65 and over represented only 6% of the Aboriginal population, compared to 14.2% in the non-Aboriginal population.
- The median age is 28 for the Aboriginal population in 2011, compared to 41 for the non-aboriginal population.
- First Nations people who are not registered Indians now represent one-quarter of the First Nations population, 25.1% (213,900).
- Over 60 Aboriginal languages reported, grouped into 12 distinct language families.

Of note, the census data covers 863 reserves, of which 36 were not participants in the data collection.

The results of the survey confirm things that we already suspected about our young and growing population. For example, we know that the population of Aboriginal people is growing fast and is significantly younger than the rest of the population. This will have significant policy implications for our leadership, and impact on our work as we look to adapt to shifting demographics. On June 26, 2013, further census data will be released on topics including labour, education, and mobility. On August 14, 2013, census data will be released on income, earnings, housing, and shelter costs.

Preparing for BC First Nations Health Delivery: The First Nations Health Council announced earlier in May a significant milestone in the BC Tripartite First Nations Health initiative, namely the signing of the Canada Funding Agreement – the contribution agreement identified in the British Columbia Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance. Through this agreement, Health Canada will fund the First Nations Health Authority over the next 10 years. The transfer of health services is scheduled to take place on October 1, 2013. However, there have been some concerns regarding the timeline of the transfer and getting all the work that needs to be completed by then, including entering into the various novation agreements between First Nations and the Health Authority. As I have repeatedly said in these and other reports, while there is no doubt we have the potential to deliver a more efficient and culturally appropriate service than Health Canada, we must make sure that that we are clear on our responsibilities and that the resources will be there to provide the programs and services our people expect and deserve. As health costs continually go up, this was never going to be an easy task, albeit desired, and we need to ensure that our governance framework and administration is in place and appropriate. For more detailed information about the funding agreement, and the work ongoing to deliver on our First Nations’ shared vision to delivery our own services, please visit the FNHC website at <http://www.fnhc.ca/>, or contact the Health Council directly.

First Nations Health Council—Data Governance Initiative: The First Nations Health Council (FNHC) has begun to develop a BC First Nations Data Governance Initiative and partnerships, through a draft BC First Nations’ Data Governance Initiative Strategic Framework. The intention is to develop a plan on how BC First Nations’ data and information could be governed and managed, and to map out an approach to achieve several main deliverables:

- a) First Nation ownership, control, access and possession (OCAP) principles;
- b) skill and capacity training;
- c) data policy templates;
- d) records management; and
- e) procurement strategy for technology.

The Health Council views this initiative as a key first step in their transformation agenda, which includes influencing positive growth across the broader determinants of health. For more information please contact the First Nations Health Council.

Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls: The AFN, the Native Women’s Association of Canada, the Human Rights Watch, as well as others, continue to highlight the issue of murdered and missing women and girls and re-iterate how important it is that we see actions that will immediately improve the safety of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

The AFN continues to press the federal government on Action Item #6 of the AFN Consensus Document, calling for a national inquiry on violence against Indigenous women and girls. Despite the growing awareness of the issue, the federal government continues to maintain that it does not see a National Inquiry as being an effective means of addressing the issue.

AFN National Forum on Community Safety and Ending Violence: At the AFN's 2012 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Toronto, a strategy was presented, titled, *Demanding Justice and Fulfilling Rights: A Strategy to End Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls*. The strategy contained a number of priority activities aimed at raising awareness, improving parliamentary and international engagement, building on policy and research and facilitating dialogue to support communities in their efforts to increase safety and end violence. Work to implement the strategy continues.

Also at the last AGA, Resolution 01-2012 was passed mandating the AFN to work with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) to hold a National Forum and Chiefs Assembly on Justice and Community Safety, to include focus on murdered and missing women and broader actions to end violence. This forum was held on April 9-10, 2013 in Edmonton. The goals of the National Forum were to:

- Build a National Action Plan to end violence that includes concrete and tangible actions for all levels of government;
- Directly engage the families of murdered and missing women in building recommendations for future action; and,
- Provide clear rationale for a National Public Commission of Inquiry on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls.

As work continues to implement and build on the strategy, I will continue to provide updates. If you would like to be more directly engaged in this work nationally, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

BC Murdered and Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry: Last December the BC Murdered and Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry released its final report which included 63 recommendations. The Province highlighted three immediate actions it would take to address some of the more pressing issues highlighted within the report. The actions included: a) committing \$750,000 to the WISH Drop-in Centre Society to build further services for vulnerable women, b) initiating meetings with communities along Highway 16 on the topic of improving transportation, and c) the appointment of Steven Point, former Lieutenant Governor of BC and Sto:lo leader, to chair a BC Advisory Committee on the Safety and Security of vulnerable women. Since our last quarterly report, Mr. Point has stepped down from this position. On May 15, 2013, Mr. Point sent a formal resignation letter to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Shirley Bond. His resignation comes after four families launched civil lawsuits in relation to the case of serial killer Robert Pickton. Mr. Point has stated that due to the complexity of the civil lawsuits, he "cannot see a path that allows [himself] to fulfil the role that [he] was asked to undertake." Based on the guidance of legal counsel, Mr. Point has found that recommendations put forward by the advisory committee could be considered in court. Of course, the loss of Mr. Point creates some uncertainty around the future of the advisory committee; however, the rights of any family to pursue legal options must be respected. Despite this development, we must continue to work to ensure that the province addresses issues surrounding the safety of our women and girls, and we will continue to update you on future progress.

Northern British Columbia: On May 15, 2013 the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP initiated a complaint and public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP and policing in Northern BC. The complaint and investigation comes following the Human Rights Watch report, *Those Who Take Us Away—Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada*, which highlighted accounts from fifty women on the use of excessive force and failures to protect Aboriginal women. A Human Rights Watch press release on February 15, 2013, emphasized the need for oversight and investigation as well as a national inquiry. The interim Chair of the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP has stated that he believes the findings of the Human Rights Watch report presents enough grounds for an investigation. The commission will conduct meetings and interviews with stakeholders and assess a portion of the incidents listed in the report. While the investigation will surely highlight any misconduct in BC, some community members have raised their own concerns regarding the lack of a mandate for the commission to investigate any criminal allegations. For a full list of areas under investigation please see the commission’s website at <http://www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>.

International Pressure: International pressure to address Canada’s treatment of Aboriginal people continue to grow. Three international organizations with a focus on human rights will be visiting Canada within the next year to investigate living conditions in First Nations communities, as well as to look into whether government and law enforcement are doing enough to resolve the cases of murdered Aboriginal women. The international organizations seek to assess issues such as access to clean water, housing, and education. The United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya, as well as members of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will make the visits. These visits follow the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier De Schutter’s comments indicating that inequality is getting worse in Canada, with 800,000 households not getting the healthy food they need. It is encouraging to see the support and concerns for our citizens, and the challenge for us all is to translate this support into our case and strategic plan for change.

Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women: The Special Parliamentary Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women held their first meeting on March 26, 2013. This committee has been described as having the mandate to conduct hearings on the critical matter of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada and to propose solutions to address the root causes of violence against Indigenous women across the country. In May, 2013, the committee continued to hear from federal witnesses. The AFN will continue to provide transcripts and highlights of these meetings when they become available. The committee is scheduled to meet every Thursday that the House of Commons is sitting, from 6 – 8 pm.

PART TWO: RELATED ACTIVITIES

BCAFN Regional Youth Forums: On March 9-10, 2013, the BCAFN male and BCAFN female Youth Representatives, Joshua Gottfriedson and Erralyn Thomas, held the second Regional Youth Forum (“Empowerment Through Inheritance”) in Vancouver, hosted by the Squamish

Nation at Chief Joe Mathias Centre. Thirty-three communities were invited to participate with over sixty-five Youth Delegates, students and youth participants in attendance. The Regional Youth Forums are helping to create the space and opportunity for young people to continue discussing their priorities and developing a shared vision forward. Their ideas and vision have been set out in a summary report, which was developed for the second regional youth forum and is available on our website.

Plans are underway to host a regional youth forum for the interior region on June 19-20, 2013, in Kamloops. I encourage our BC leadership to support young people in their respective communities to attend. More information is available at www.bcafn.ca. While coordinating the regional youth forums, the BCAFN Youth Representatives, in partnership with the BCAFN, continue to strategize around more ways to increase our outreach and to empower and support our young people to inherit the political landscape around them. I would like to recognize those who provided financial support to the youth forums, including, the New Relationship Trust, the Squamish Nation, the BC Aboriginal Youth Internship Program, ACFFC, and the Sto:lo Tribal Council.

To aid our BCAFN team in this important work, I am happy to announce that the BCAFN has hired a Youth Engagement Coordinator for the summer. We welcome Ashly Frances Van Steele to this position. Ashly will assist the BCAFN in outreach, planning, and research in order to build on BCAFN youth initiatives. If you have questions about the regional youth forums, please contact Ashly directly at youth.coordinator@bcfn.ca.

BCAFN Male Youth Representative: As you probably know, our male and female BCAFN youth representatives are each elected by our membership for a term of three years. The BCAFN will be holding elections for the position of Male Youth Representative at our upcoming AGM, June 27, 2013. Information about election procedures for interested candidates will be available on our website soon at www.bcafn.ca.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) meets for 10 days on an annual basis at United Nations headquarters in New York, or on occasion in Geneva. The forum advises on economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health, and human rights, as these apply to Indigenous peoples globally. This year, the Twelfth Session of the UNPFII, took place from May 20-31, 2013. The agenda included a number of key international topics such as: discussion around the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and future work of the Permanent Forum on emerging issues.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the Permanent Forum this year. However, I am assured that the voices and perspectives of our Nations here in BC were well represented. I want to congratulate Grand Chief Ed John on his reappointment as a member of UNPFII. Grand Chief Ed John was appointed by the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on May 6, 2013. It is of considerable benefit to our Nations to have the Grand Chief working on the international stage and I applaud the great work that he has done as a member of UNPFII.

PART THREE: BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS' OPERATIONS

BCAFN Elder Representative

Hereditary Chief Robert Joseph Kwakwaka'wakw elder and the Regional Chief's Elder Advisor

BCAFN Women's Representative

Chief Glenda Campbell Tzeachten First Nation

BCAFN Youth Council

Joshua August Gottfriedson Tk'emlups te Secwepemc maleyouth@bcafn.ca
Erralyn Thomas Snuneymuxw First Nation femaleyouth@bcafn.ca

BCAFN Board of Directors

Chief Maureen Chapman Skawahlook First Nation
Chief Trish Cassidy Qualicum First Nation
Tribal Chief Liz Logan Treaty 8 Tribal Association
Chief Nelson Leon Adams Lake Indian Band
Chief Bruce Underwood Pauquachin First Nation

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We are very happy to introduce two new members of the BCAFN team. Teyem Thomas from T'Sou-ke First Nation has been hired as the new BCAFN Administrative Assistant, and Ashly Frances Van Steele has been hired as our Youth Engagement Coordinator for the summer.

Information Sharing/Webpage: The BCAFN website hosts the "BCAFN Governance Toolkit" where Part 1 - *The Governance Report*, Part 2 – *The Governance Self-Assessment*, and Part 3 - *A Guide to Community Engagement*, are accessible online along with related tools, reference

documents and other resources (www.bcafn.ca). In addition the webpage includes individual profile pages for each of our Nations. Our office will continue to work with First Nations that wish to contribute to and update their individual profile page to share information and highlight their successes with others. If you would like to provide any feedback, contribute to the site, or update your First Nation's profile, please contact us by email at reception@bcfn.ca.

NOTICES

June 19-20, 2013

**BCAFN Regional Youth Forum
Interior Region**

The Coast Hotel and Conference Centre, Kamloops, BC

For more information see www.bcafn.ca

June 26th-27th, 2013

BCAFN Annual General Meeting

River Rock Casino Resort, Richmond, BC

Agenda will include: Annual BCAFN Society Business, Comprehensive Claims Update and Discussion, Mechanisms to move beyond the *Indian Act*, Fiscal Relations/Revenue-Sharing and preparation for AFN AGA, Whitehorse, YK

Elections will be held for BCAFN Male Youth Representative

For more information see www.bcafn.ca

July 16th-18th, 2013

AFN Annual General Assembly

Whitehorse, YK

For more information see www.bcafn.ca

November 25th-26th, 2013

BCAFN Special Chiefs' Assembly

Vancouver, BC

For more information see www.bcafn.ca

Up to date information can be accessed on our website: www.bcafn.ca.