

# FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

## RESOLUTION #1015.08

**SUBJECT: FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT'S RECOGNITION AND DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, AS "ABORIGINAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH" WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

### WHEREAS

- A. The First Nations Summit supports the total inclusion, recognition of and support for Aboriginal persons and families living with a disability, irrespective of disability, age, location and gender and their right to access and participate fully in all aspects of life and community and at a level equal to persons living without a disability within British Columbia and Canada.
- B. Disability rates among Aboriginal people is more than twice that of the national rate of Canada and that at every age, Aboriginal Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Aboriginal.
- C. Aboriginal persons and families living with a disability within British Columbia and Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population, seeing Aboriginal persons living with a disability experiencing the discriminatory practices dealt with by non-Aboriginal Canadians living with a disability, while additionally having to face systemic racism and the continuing inequality of socio-economic conditions and inequitable access to disability related programs and services.
- D. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities sets out key principles and calls for full and effective participation and inclusion in society, and equality of opportunity. Specifically:
  - **Preamble (c)** – “The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and *the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination.*”
  - **Preamble (e)** – “That disability is an evolving concept and *that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers* that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”
  - **Preamble (h)** - “That *discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person.*”

PAGE TWO

RESOLUTION #1015.08

SUBJECT: FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT'S RECOGNITION AND DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, AS "ABORIGINAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH" WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- **Preamble (i)** – "Recognizing further *the diversity of persons with disabilities.*"
  - **Preamble (m)** – "*The valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.*"
  - **Preamble (p)** – "Concerned about the difficult conditions faced by *persons with disabilities who are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth, age or other status.*
  - **Preamble (y)** – "That a comprehensive and integral international convention to *promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities will make a significant contribution to redressing the profound social disadvantage of persons with disabilities and promote their participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities, in both developing and developed countries.*
  - **Article 3 - General principles:**
    - (b) – "Non-discrimination";
    - (c) – "*Full and effective participation and inclusion in society*";
    - (d) – "*Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity*";
    - (e) – "Equality of opportunity";
  - **Article 8 - Awareness-raising:**
    - (a) *To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;*
    - (b) *To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;*
    - (c) *To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.*
- E. The Province of British Columbia is working toward making British Columbia the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities, as outlined in the government's **Accessibility 2024** document, and the recognition of each **November** as "**Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month**" will assist the province in achieving its goal.
- F. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) works to provide services within the Aboriginal disability and health sectors of British Columbia and its mission of:

PAGE THREE

RESOLUTION #1015.08

SUBJECT: FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT'S RECOGNITION AND DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, AS "ABORIGINAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH" WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA

*"Supporting the unique and comprehensive disability, health and resource needs of Aboriginal persons and organizations across British Columbia, through relevant, timely and accessible client services".*

- G. Aboriginal persons living with disabilities provide significant contributions to be recognized, celebrated and valued in an inclusive and respectful society.
- H. Provincial, urban and rural Aboriginal organizations, communities including individuals with disabilities and their families, disability organizations, governments and all Canadians are encouraged to recognize and celebrate the diversity and contributions of this segment of our society.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly recognize and declare the month of **November** in each calendar year as "**Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month**" with the overall goals of:
  - a. promoting and enhancing awareness of Aboriginal disability issues; and
  - b. encouraging inclusivity in communities through recognition of the contributions of Aboriginal people with disabilities within British Columbia.
2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly support the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society in its effort to secure national recognition, endorsement and declaration of the month of **November**, in each calendar year, as "Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month" by way of resolution and proclamations of the Assembly of First Nations and Canada's federal and provincial governments.

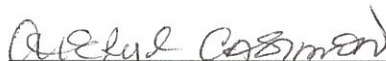
**MOVED BY:** Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation


**SECONDED BY:** Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation Council

**DATED:** October 16, 2015

Passed by consensus.

**ENDORSED BY:**

  
Cheryl Casimer

  
Robert Phillips

  
Grand Chief Edward John