

First Nations Summit

RESOLUTION #0216.02

SUBJECT: COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SHARING, ACTION AND SUPPORT FOR THE INCREASED PROMOTION OF AND ENROLLMENT IN THE REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN (RDSP) BY PERSONS LIVING WITH A DISABILITY WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FIRST NATION AND NON-FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS:

- A. The First Nations Summit supports the economic and social inclusion of all persons and families living with a disability, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as adopted by United Nations General Assembly, provides that:
- **Preamble (t)** – “The fact that the majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the *critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities.*”
 - **Preamble (v)** – “The importance of accessibility to the physical, social, *economic* and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in *enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.*”
 - **Preamble (x)** – “That the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and *assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities.*”
 - **Article 3 - General principles (c)** – “*Full and effective participation and inclusion in society.*”
 - **Article 4 - General obligations (2)** – “With regard to *economic*, social and cultural rights, each State Party undertakes to take measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the present Convention that are immediately applicable according to international law.”
 - **Article 28 - Adequate standard of living and social protection**
 - (c) – “To ensure access by *persons with disabilities and their families* living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses; and



PAGE TWO
RESOLUTION #0216.02

SUBJECT: COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SHARING, ACTION AND SUPPORT
FOR THE INCREASED PROMOTION OF AND ENROLLMENT IN THE
REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN (RDSP) BY PERSONS LIVING WITH A
DISABILITY WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FIRST NATION AND NON-FIRST
NATION COMMUNITIES

(e) – “to ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefits and programmes”;

C. In June 2014, the Premier released *Accessibility 2024: Making B.C. the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by 2024*. Accessibility 2024 is a 10-year action plan, designed around 12 building blocks that represent the themes that emerged through the provincial disability consultation process. Accessibility 2024 includes measures for success and cross-government commitments that will help improve accessibility in B.C. for people with disabilities.

D. The First Nations Summit has supported the past and current work of the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) within the Aboriginal disability and health sectors of British Columbia and its mission of:

“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”

E. BCANDS is currently a member of the provincial government's appointed provincial **RDSP Action Group** whose membership includes:

- The Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation (SDSI);
- Flaherty and Associates - Business Consultants;
- The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS);
- The Disability Alliance BC (DABC);
- The Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN);
- Vancity Credit Union;
- The Bank of Montreal;
- The Royal Bank;
- The Vancouver Foundation;
- The University of Victoria;
- The Century Plaza Hotel & Absolute Spa Group;
- Supreme Court of British Columbia; and
- Other prominent organizations and influential leaders within British Columbia.

F. Designed for individuals under age 60 who are eligible for the disability tax credit, the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) was created by the Government of Canada to help people with disabilities and their families save for their long-term financial security.

G. BC's provincial RDSP Action Group is committed to: increasing the financial security for persons with disabilities and their families within British Columbia; working collectively to raise awareness of the benefits of the RDSP across the province; and to achieve the highest savings rate for people with disabilities in Canada by 2024 through RDSP participation

PAGE THREE

RESOLUTION #0216.02

SUBJECT: COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SHARING, ACTION AND SUPPORT FOR THE INCREASED PROMOTION OF AND ENROLLMENT IN THE REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN (RDSP) BY PERSONS LIVING WITH A DISABILITY WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FIRST NATION AND NON-FIRST NATION

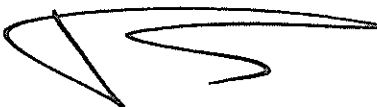
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:


1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly support:
 - a. the Registered Disability Savings Plan Action Group's efforts to promote and enhance enrollment in the Registered Disability Savings Plan ("RDSP") by eligible individuals and families living with a disability; and
 - b. the RDSP Action Group's efforts to seek national endorsement for the RDSP through a resolution of support from the Assembly of First Nations.
2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly support efforts of the RDSP Action Group to ensure that strategies to maximize RDSP enrollment are collaboratively developed and implemented among Aboriginal, federal, provincial and municipal governments, disability-related organizations, communities, policy makers and relevant stakeholders.

MOVED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation
SECONDED BY: Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation Council
DATED: February 5, 2016

Passed by consensus.

ENDORSED BY: 
Cheryl Casimer


Robert Phillips


Grand Chief Edward John