

April 4, 2024

Regional Chief Terry Teegee
British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3

Re: AFN Executive Committee Portfolios

Dear Regional Chief Teegee:

Thank you for accepting the responsibility of overseeing the portfolio on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Fisheries-West portfolio and co-chair for the Justice & Policing portfolio.

Also encompassed in your portfolios is the Chiefs' Committee on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (CC-UNDA), the Chiefs' Committee on Justice, the First Nations Policing Taskforce, and the National Fisheries Committee. At times, with respect to the UNDRIP file, collaboration with your colleagues on the Executive Committee will be necessary, including Regional Chief Adamek as portfolio holder for Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements, and Regional Chief Hare, as portfolio holder for Lands.

In accepting this mandate, you are entrusted with the responsibility to act in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), advocating for the rights and interests of all First Nations. Your commitment to promoting unity, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the principles and ideals of the AFN Charter are maintained is of the utmost importance. In accordance with the AFN Charter, Article 18(9),

“The National Chief shall assign portfolios in a collaborative process with the Executive Committee and/or re-assign portfolio topics to Regional Chiefs serving on the Executive Committee to lead specific topics of work as required. Upon assignment, the Regional Chief shall report quarterly to the Executive Committee and the First Nations-in-Assembly as well as to their own Regions. If the Regional Chief fails to report quarterly, the National Chief may consider re-assigning the portfolio.

- a) The portfolio holder shall be responsible for leading the work of the portfolio as directed by resolutions from the First Nations-in-Assembly;

- b) The portfolio holder shall chair all Chiefs' Committee meetings that are associated with their portfolio and oversee the work of the Chiefs' Committee to ensure that all procedures and processes are being followed and maintained under the Terms of Reference, By-Laws and the AFN Charter."

Additionally, for your portfolio area, I ask you to take on the following activities, supported by the AFN Secretariat:

- **Advocacy:** Actively engage with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to advocate for policies and initiatives that align with the interests and needs of the First Nations. Represent the concerns and aspirations of First Nations in various forums.
- **Unity and Collaboration:** Foster unity among First Nations and promote collaboration on matters of common interest. Work closely with other Regional Chiefs to strengthen the collective voice of the AFN.
- **Engagement:** Regularly engage with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, women, youth, veterans, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples through our Advisory Councils and other forums to understand their perspectives, needs, and concerns. Bring forward these insights to inform decision-making.
- **Capacity Building:** Work towards the empowerment and capacity building of First Nations. Collaborate with relevant partners to secure resources and support programs that enhance First Nations' well-being.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Maintain a high standard of accountability and transparency in your actions and decisions. Keep the Executive Committee informed about relevant developments, challenges, and opportunities.

As the lead portfolio holder, you will be supported by the AFN Secretariat and your work will be guided by resolutions approved by First Nations-in-Assembly that provide you with your mandate. Resolutions relevant to your portfolios include but are not limited to:

Justice & Policing

- 12/2023 – *First Nations Alternative Approaches to Justice*
- 13/2023 – *Enforcement of Band Council Resolutions and Bylaws On-Reserve*
- 48/2023 – *Revitalization of Indigenous Laws and Legal Orders*
- 55/2023 – *Support for the Reform and Enforcement of First Nations Laws*
- 88/2023 – *Communal Protection Orders for Violent and Repeat Offenders in First Nations*
- 11/2022 – *Establishing a Chiefs' Committee on Justice*
- 39/2022 – *Opposition to Bill C-21 Federal Gun Control Legislation*
- 36/2021 – *Call for Recommitment, Funding and Clear Timelines for Development and Implementation of a National First Nations Justice Strategy*
- 06/2020 – *Support for Advocacy on Systemic Racism in Canada*
- 07/2020 – *Call for Reform to Address Institutional Racism in the Justice System*
- 11/2020 – *Implementation of the National Indigenous Justice Summit's Immediate Action Points*

UNDRIPA

- 20/2023 – *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Draft National Action Plan*
- 77/2023 – *Call for Canada to Consult on All Amendments Pursuant to the UNDRIP Act*
- 13/2022 – *First Nations Priorities to Guide the Crown's Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Fisheries

- 73/2023 – *First Nation Rights-Based Inland Fisheries Framework*
- 26/2023 – *Transition from Open Net-Pen Fish Farming*
- 06/2021 – *Yukon River Chinook Salmon of Canadian Origin*
- 08/2020 – *Systemic Racism in all federal agencies including Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Response to Sipekne'katik First Nation's Inherent Rights-based Fishery*
- 65/2019 – *Recognition of the Marshall Decision*
- 69/2019 – *To Fully Implement the First Nations Priority Right to Food, Social, and Ceremonial Fisheries*
- 96/2019 – *Support for the Implementation of Ahousaht et al (2009) Court Decision*
- 52/2018 – *First Nations Inclusion in Canada's Oceans Protection Plan*

Financial support for travel will be supported by the AFN Secretariat, where available and in accordance with AFN Finance policies.

Thank you for accepting your role as the Portfolio holder for these areas. I look forward to working with you to advance the work of the Assembly of First Nations.

Megwetch,

Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
National Chief