OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 22ND- NOVEMBER 23RD, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2011-65

RE: Development of UBCIC Citizenship Paper

WHEREAS our ability as Indigenous Peoples to define our own citizenship is key to our expression of sovereignty and nationhood;

WHEREAS the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, ratified by Canada on November 12, 2010, directs an approach that recognizes Indigenous Peoples' collective and ancestral rights and responsibilities to determine our own identity and citizenship flowing from our own laws:

- **Article 8**: Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture….States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for…Any form of forced assimilation or integration…
- **Article 9**: Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2011-13, the UBCIC Chiefs Council directed the UBCIC Executive and the UBCIC Bill C-31 Working Group to participate in Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development's Exploratory Process on First Nations Citizenship, Band Registration, and Membership ("Exploratory Process") by holding regional, Nation-based dialogue sessions in accordance with a specific set of key principles;

WHEREAS as part of the Exploratory Process, the UBCIC Bill C-31 Working Group produced a rolling draft position paper on citizenship that incorporated historical context and considerations of financial impacts, as well as incorporated feedback from participants who took part in the regional dialogue sessions;

WHEREAS the draft position paper is called "We Stand on the Shoulders of our Ancestors: Decolonizing Indigenous Citizenship", and was presented to the UBCIC Chiefs Council for further feedback on November 22, 2011;

WHEREAS the Chair called for volunteers from the floor to participate in a Working Group to further develop the draft position paper on citizenship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council appoints the following volunteers to work with the UBCIC Executive, UBCIC staff and the UBCIC Bill C-31 Working Group on the "UBCIC Citizenship Paper Working Group":

- Chief Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band
- Chief Ko'waintco Michel, Nooaitch Indian Band
- Coola Louis, UBCIC Women's Representative
- Councillor Samantha Etzel, Tsawout First Nation

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Citizenship Paper Working Group to:

1) Separate the draft UBCIC citizenship paper into two parts, with the first part addressing the continued impacts of the *Indian Act*, and the second part addressing how First Nations can develop their own citizenship laws;
2) Circulate the revised draft citizenship paper to the UBCIC Chiefs Council for review and comment in advance of the UBCIC Chiefs Council on February 22-23, 2012;
3) Bring a final draft citizenship paper to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on February 22-23, 2012 for consideration and endorsement.

Moved: **Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band**
Seconded: **Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin**
Disposition: **Carried**
Date: **November 23rd, 2011**