

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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July 8, 2010

Dear Chief and Council:

RE: UBCIC 2010-2011 Membership

The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) is a non-profit Indigenous political organization currently representing close to 80 First Nations communities in BC. Our mandate is to protect and advance the political and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia at regional, national and international levels. We are recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. We strive to build trust and respect so that we may continue the healing and reconciliation of our Indigenous Nations and achieve security and liberty in our lifetime.

The UBCIC receives its direction and mandate from its membership, the member communities who form the UBCIC Chiefs Council. In order to carry out its mandate, the UBCIC counts, in part, on membership dues and other contributions by First Nations. Please accept this invitation to renew your community membership, or to consider the many benefits of becoming a member community of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. These benefits include:

- **Political Advocacy.** The UBCIC is committed to supporting our member communities on issues such as recognition of Aboriginal Title and Rights, consultation and accommodation, children and families, health, C-31 status issues, fisheries, fish farms, forestry and oil/gas exploration. The UBCIC works with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and/or First Nation Councils to engage the provincial and federal governments in the development and/or implementation of the Fisheries Action Plan, Energy Action Plan, Justice Action Plan, Health Plan, and Health Memorandum-of-Understandings.
- **Legal Analysis and Policy Analysis.** The UBCIC engages legal counsel in relation to discussion and/or position papers concerning the recognition of Aboriginal Title, Aboriginal Rights, Treaty Rights, consultation and accommodation, children and families, mining, C-31, water, forestry, fisheries, policing and specific claims. All policy documents are provided to UBCIC members for review and/or community implementation.
- **Specific Claims Research Program.** The UBCIC Specific Claims Research Program has been operating since the early 1970s conducting band-directed research and legal analysis at no cost to individual bands. This work includes all aspects of the specific claims research process including archival research into potential specific claims, legal review, drafting, submission, and continuing follow-up of a claim until it reaches the claim negotiation stage. For over 30 years the UBCIC Research Department has managed a large and increasing volume of claims by centralising claims research expertise. Our research team currently has over 35 years of combined specific claims research experience.

- Resource Centre and Archives. Our renowned Resource Centre and Archives hosts an impressive collection of archival materials related to BC land rights, including the most up-to-date microfilm collection of archived Indian Affairs material in BC. The Resource Centre also hosts several online collections of archival holdings, and we are working towards increasing our digital collections. In the spirit of increasing access to research resources for remote communities, we now participate in a document delivery program, scanning UBCIC documents into an electronic format and providing electronic access to First Nations and community researchers.
- Community Outreach. The UBCIC offers free research workshops to our membership, and continues to develop research publications such as *Living Proof: The Essential Data-Collection Guide for Indigenous Use-and-Occupancy Map Surveys*, *Chief Kerry's Moose*, and *Stolen Lands, Broken Promises: Researching the Indian Land Question in BC*.
- Meeting Facilities. The UBCIC provides meeting facilities, free of charge for member communities, at our Vancouver office in Gastown, which includes a large boardroom equipped with a complete audio/visual system with powerpoint capability. A small meeting room is also available. The boardroom and meeting room are equipped with wireless internet and teleconferencing. Photocopying and faxing are available. The UBCIC meeting facilities have served as an off-reserve polling station for member communities.
- Media. The UBCIC will assist in the coordination of press conferences and distribution of press releases.
- Travel Reimbursement. The UBCIC offers full reimbursement for travel and accommodation costs for the chief or designated proxy to UBCIC Chiefs Council meetings and the Annual General Assembly.

For renewing member communities and First Nations interested in becoming members of the UBCIC, the following outlines membership dues for 2010-2011 fiscal year.

A. By-law Section 1(b):

Each Full Member shall pay a membership fee to the U.B.C.I.C. depending on their registered Band Membership as follows:

- (i) For members with up to 100 registered Band Members the sum of \$100.00,
- (ii) For members with between 101-300 registered Band Members the sum of \$200.00,
- (iii) For members with between 301-500 registered Band Members the sum of \$300.00,
- (iv) For members with between 501-800 registered Band Members the sum of \$400.00,
- (v) For members with 801 or more registered Band Members the sum of \$500.00.

B. In addition each member Band is asked to contribute a sum, which will provide funds for Administration in the following areas:

1. Library and Resource Centre	\$150.00
2. Legal Counsel	\$150.00
3. Community Outreach	\$250.00

We would like to offer thanks to those members who have responded and paid their dues and contributions for this fiscal year and look forward to welcoming new members to our organization. If you have any questions, you can contact the Vancouver office at 1-800-793-9701 or at donb@ubcic.bc.ca.

In solidarity,



Don Bain
Executive Director

CC: Arnold Peters, UBCIC Finance Manager