UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
42ND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 15TH-17TH, 2010
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2010-35

RE: Administration of First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund

WHEREAS the BC First Nations Equity Fund (BCFNEF), 100% owned and controlled by BC First Nations, was launched in April 2010 by All Nations Trust Company, New Relationship Trust and Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation to offer low interest equity loans to BC First Nations so they may participate as owners/partners in commercially viable green energy projects;

WHEREAS the BC government established the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund to help clean power technology projects succeed, which will help address BC energy challenges, protect our environment, and grow the economy. The BC government has yet to determine how the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund will be administered;

WHEREAS the BCFNEF has created the governance structure and has extensive administration experience and thorough project evaluation systems in place to ensure it could administer the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund in a cost effective and efficient manner to First Nations in BC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs-in-Assembly support the BCFNEF proposal to the BC government for $5+ million of the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund to be administered by the BCFNEF for First Nations in BC participating in green energy projects; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs-in-Assembly support the BCFNEF in requesting that the $5-plus million be provided by the BC government to BCFNEF in fiscal year 2010-2011 so that First Nations in BC may immediately benefit from the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund as partners in BC economic initiatives.

Please find attached a briefing note that provides additional information.

Moved:
Seconded:
Disposition: TABLED
Date:

BRIEFING NOTE-August 26, 2010
BC First Nations Equity Fund

All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO), New Relationship Trust (NRT) and Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) partnered to create the BC First Nations Equity Fund limited partnership (BCFNEF). The BCFNEF is Aboriginal-owned, controlled and managed, with each partner contributing $1.66 million in seed money to create an initial $5 million fund. The partners are looking to leverage additional contributions from government and private sources, with the goal of growing the fund to $50 million.

The BCFNEF offers competitively priced equity loans to First Nations in BC so they may invest as partners directly into independent power producer (IPP) green energy projects within their traditional territory. The fund will also promote First Nations business leadership by helping BC First Nations build capacity through business development projects, and to become significant partners in the BC economy.

The Fund will initially focus on alternative energy investments such as small hydro run-of-the-river projects. The reason for focusing on green energy projects is because sustainability is a core value of First Nation people. Many communities have the natural resources – rivers and streams - within their territories to participate, and green energy production is a relatively low financial risk because power can be sold to BC Hydro under a long-term agreement.

BCFNEF Partners
ANTCO is a trust company and aboriginal financial institution that promotes Native self-sufficiency through marketing, financial resources and advisory services.

NEDC operates as an aboriginal financial institution as well as a Community Futures corporation that supports First Nation business.

NRT supports First Nation communities in British Columbia in their efforts to build capacity in order to become healthy, prosperous and self-sufficient.

First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund[1]
The Green Energy Advisory Task Force put together by the BC government released a report on April 28, 2010 that provides input to ensure B.C. remains a leader in clean, renewable energy. The task force was composed of four advisory task force groups, focused on:

- Procurement and regulatory reform.
- Carbon pricing, trading and export market development.
- Community engagement and First Nations partnerships.
- Resource development.

The Province's Clean Energy Act also introduced on April 28th builds on a number of recommendations from the task force, including:

- Confirming our commitment to the Heritage Contract, to ensure B.C. ratepayers continue to receive the benefits of B.C.'s low-cost electricity assets.
- Moving forward on critical infrastructure projects such as Site C and the Mica and Revelstoke upgrades.
- Increasing B.C.'s clean energy supply to meet domestic and future export demand.
- Better align implementation of policy between BC Hydro and BCUC and review the need for a separate transmission corporation.
- Enabling utilities to implement initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve energy efficiency, such as encouraging installation of high-efficiency heating systems like heat pumps or vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure.
- Creating a **First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund** to support revenue sharing opportunities and to increase First Nations participation in clean energy resource development.

In recent meetings it has been stated by BC government representatives that the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund could exceed $5 million.

[1] Source: BC Government website. http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010EMPR0016-000487.htm# (accessed August 16, 2010).