UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
43RD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 14TH – SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2011
WHISTLER, B.C.

Draft Resolution no. 2011-32

RE: Support for BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord

WHEREAS a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from First Nations, First Nations organizations, and federal, provincial, and local governments was established to facilitate information sharing and dialogue that would contribute to a collaborative watershed governance document, to be signed and implemented by the parties represented on the Steering Committee;

WHEREAS the Steering Committee, coordinated by the Fraser Basin Council, met three times in 2010 and drafted a *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord* which is intended to provide guidance by outlining a more collaborative and inclusive way of doing business in watersheds and to bring about more inclusive, broadly based decisions that are cognizant and respectful of competing interests;

WHEREAS the United Nations' *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:

> **Article 25:** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
>
> **Article 32:**
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> 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources;
> 2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;
> 3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact;

WHEREAS the purpose of the *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord* is to encourage agencies, governments, including First Nations, organizations and commercial interests throughout BC to work more collaboratively within watersheds by implementing agreed-upon guiding principles to attain enduring healthy, resilient watersheds for the benefit of those ecosystems, communities and the resource economies that depend on them;

WHEREAS an early draft of the *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord* was tabled as information at the March 2011 UBCIC Chiefs Council meeting, and further revisions were subsequently made;

WHEREAS the final draft of the *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord* was tabled at the September 2011 UBCIC Annual General Assembly for consideration of endorsement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord*;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to sign the *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord* on behalf of UBCIC, and circulate a final copy to the UBCIC Chiefs Council;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Fraser Basin Council to ensure that *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord* is implemented in full accordance with the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Fraser Basin Council to provide regular updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on implementation of the *BC Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord*.

Moved: **Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin**
Seconded: **Chief Fred Robbins, Esketemc First Nation**
Disposition: **Tabled**
Date: **September 15th, 2011**