OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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

Resolution no. 2011-36

RE: Support for the Strategic Direction of the First Nations Fisheries Council

WHEREAS the First Nations Fisheries Council has a mandate to work with, and on behalf of British Columbia First Nations to: advance and protect First Nations Title and Rights, and Treaty Rights, related to fisheries and aquatic resources, including priority access for food, social, cultural and economic purposes; support First Nations to build and maintain capacity related to fishing; planning, policy, management and decision-making at a variety of scales (local, regional, national and international); and facilitate discussions related to the development of a British Columbia-wide First Nations-based collaborative management framework that recognizes and respects First Nations jurisdiction, management authority and responsibilities;

WHEREAS a clear governance mechanism to complement the voices of First Nation communities is required to effectively mitigate challenges, navigate management complexities and leverage opportunities in advancing First Nations interests with regards to fisheries in B.C.;

WHEREAS the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* sets out:

> **Article 18**: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 26(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired;

WHEREAS the next three years, from 2012 to 2015, will be a period of considerable opportunity and challenge for First Nations fisheries in the province of British Columbia. The conclusion of substantive programming such as the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative in March 2012, the pending June 2012 release of the final report from the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River, the implementation of federal Pacific Aquaculture Regulations, and Fisheries & Oceans Canada's introduction of evolving governance frameworks will unquestionably alter the operational and political climate in the Region and in the Pacific fisheries;

WHEREAS the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, the B.C. Assembly of First Nations, and the First Nations Summit signed the Leadership Accord in 2005, committing to work together on issues of common interest or concern among First Nations in British Columbia, and work collectively on certain issues under the umbrella of the "First Nations Leadership Council," and this continued work was endorsed at an All-Chiefs' Assembly in November-December, 2010;

WHEREAS it is recognized that the First Nations Leadership Council's Terms of Reference and Accountability Framework (2011) establish standards for tools and procedures for seeking community direction, external reporting and communication, coordinated strategies and reciprocal accountabilities. As an organization, the First Nations Fisheries Council will uphold the principles outlined in the First Nations Leadership Council Accountability Framework, specifically:

3.1 *Promote and strive toward unity among the First Nations Leadership Council and councils, working groups, committees and partner organizations in order to best meet the needs of Nations in a coordinated and positive way, to be maintained by open and respectful communication and information sharing.*

3.2 *Respect and recognition of unique mandates, histories, governance structures, and funding obligations of the First Nations Leadership Council and each council, working group, committee and partner organization;*

WHEREAS an overarching element of the strategic direction for the First Nations Fisheries Council is the need for a clear, effective governance mechanism to link the work of the First Nations Fisheries Council to First Nations communities, the high-level First Nations political arena in B.C. including the First Nations Leadership Council, and aggregate fisheries organizations in B.C.;

WHEREAS First Nations in British Columbia can work to influence the integrated planning and management of fisheries and aquatic resources and address the current deficiency of consultation and perceived marginalization of *Section 35(1)* of the Constitution Act, 1982 at various scales and with respect to multiple issues, species and socio-economic contexts, by establishing clear processes and cohesive messaging, and linking the political and technical capacities of the First Nations Leadership Council, and the First Nations Fisheries Council.

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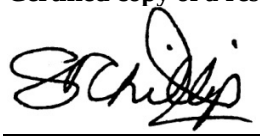

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President **2011-36**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the First Nations Fisheries Council and the First Nations Leadership Council to affirm respective intentions to work together in a cooperative and mutually supportive manner in order to coordinate policy and technical assets towards specific advocacy and communication objectives, and to develop a *Declaration & Protocol*, which clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of each party in addressing sectoral issues and priorities identified by First Nations;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that complementary to this process, the UBCIC Chiefs–in-Assembly calls on the First Nations Fisheries Council to follow up on a process for relationship building with local, regional and watershed-level groups, through a similar relationship document.

Moved:	**Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation**
Seconded:	**Terry Dorwood, proxy, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation**
Disposition:	**Carried**
	Abstention: Chief Roger Adolph, Xaxli'p First Nation
	Opposed: Chief Francis Laceese, Toosey Indian Band
Date:	**September 15th, 2011**

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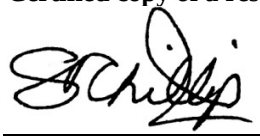

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