

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Yellowhead Highway
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
5th Floor, 342 Water Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1B6
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
MARCH 17TH - 18TH, 2010
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2010-09

RE: Funding to Address Safety of First Nations Communities Resulting from the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic and Risk of Fire

WHEREAS First Nations recognize the need to address the environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic on First Nations;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2005-01 supports the *BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan*;

WHEREAS the federal government failed to fulfill its promise to provide \$100 million a year for 10 years to develop and implement wildfire protection plans to reduce the risk of fires to communities, and to address other impacts of the MPB epidemic;

WHEREAS because of the lack of funding very few communities have implemented their wildfire protection plans and reduced the fuel load around their communities;

WHEREAS the 2009 fire season was the worst in BC and multiple evacuations and alerts were issued;

WHEREAS the fire risk to 103 First Nations communities located in areas damaged by MPB is increasing because of the build-up of deadwood around their communities;

WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments are ignoring the need to address fuel loads and the safety of communities, and have taken a “wait and see” attitude;

WHEREAS the combination of increasing threat of fire with the lack of resources to address fuel build-up around communities threatens safety, and increases the risk of human tragedy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council direct the UBCIC Executive to work with the BC First Nations Forestry Council in advancing this urgent issue with the federal government and accessing the resources needed to continue their work in helping communities address safety issues, environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts as a result of the mountain pine beetle disaster; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council direct the Executive to work with the First Nations Forestry Council to build a sustained media campaign via press releases and open letters to ensure these issues are addressed by the federal and provincial governments;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council seek renewed support from the First Nations Summit Task Group, the AFN BC Regional Chief and the National Chief to advance the need to resolve this issue.

Moved: Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band

Seconded: Chief Don Moses, Lower Nicola Indian Band

Disposition: Carried

Date: March 18th, 2010