

FYI

## Special Chiefs Assembly on Federal Legislation –Report May 1-2

### United Nations Declaration on Rights of INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT.

#### Objective-

To inform Chiefs about 2 key legislative initiatives relating to the implementation of First Peoples rights;

- 1) Private members Bill C– 262: the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- 2) Canada`s proposed Recognition and implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework (RIIRF)

The federal government recognizing our rights from the United Nations should effect everything.

They would have to recognize all the treaty negotiations, fishing rights, child welfare and safety, Language, it would pressure Federal Legislation.

First Nations Language Legislation Implementation needed to progress needed for protection Federal and Provincial are aligning MOUs, (Memorandum of Understanding)

Bill C-262 is in the third and final reading at the house of commons, then goes to the Senate.

New Government legislation on child and family services on supporting to keep families together instead of tearing them apart or needing a quota of apprehensions for funding. Offering these new services each band would need legislation to line up with the Governments. Child and family services utilizing these new services would have to revamp the policies and procedures to cover our children`s rights and to limit liabilities.

Communications need to be high to keep on top of changes and to take advantage of new, better changes. Also to start to update policies and procedures to be in line with new legislation.

There is a tremendous amount of changes to keep track of in all aspects of service to our people. It was an information overload to say the least.

#### Day 2

#### Fisheries

Bill C-68 (Fisheries Act) Bill C55 (Oceans Act) Bill C-64 (Wrecks)

#### Briefing for BC Chiefs

- 1) The BC First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) has been the technical lead to work with a coalition of BC First Nations Fisheries organizations From across BC.
- 2) The coalition has provided commentary, and suggested changes and additions to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans regarding Bill C-68.
- 3) As the Parliamentary process continues, First Nations in BC should continue to advocate for their interests in ensuring the legislation meets their interests, and prepare for the required regulations that will result to implement the legislation.

Note: Information package included 16 more pages of information on fisheries.

Our technical team sent an information package binder with Chief Seymour, with our concerns on fisheries.

The Package had a list of recommendations.

- **Recommendation 1: Restore HADD Provisions**
- **Recommendation 2: Restore prohibition against killing fish.**
- **Recommendation 3: Repeal Definition of Aboriginal, Recreational and Commercial Fisheries.**
- **Recommendation 4: Reduce Discretion and Eliminate Certain Regulatory Authority.**
- **Recommendation 5: Restore Environmental Assessment Triggers.**
- **Recommendation 6: Include Purpose Section.**
- **Recommendation 7: Enable Meaningful Governance and Management Agreement with Indigenous Organizations.**
- **Recommendation 8: Mandatory Standards and Objectives for Guiding Decision-Making.**
- **Recommendation 9: Systemic Changes including increase Capacity for Monitoring and Enforcement.**

In the BC breakout session Fisheries meeting, I discussed these recommendations with a couple Fisheries Council committee members and a couple lawyer technical advisors.

Found out recommendation 1, 2, and 3 are covered by bill legislation, recommendation 4 and 5 not discussed and partially met, number 6 recommendations not met, recommendations 7, 8, and 9 are being discussed and not been met yet.

The whole two day meeting had a lot to cover for such short sessions. Clearly there is a lot of work to be done and information needed to be kept up with to protect our rights, one of the main bill of rights that will affect all the other is Bill C- 262, The United Nations Indigenous Human right, recognized by the Government would mean stronger rights for all of our rights, Fisheries for example, DFO has been infringing it by not having strong enough rules against sport fishermen and commercial quotas and do not even understand that stronger rules on limits is saving our way of life and by that is saving their jobs.

Finally, I am very grateful for Cowichan Tribes to send me on these meetings, these are very important times for our people Nationwide, that we need to keep up with, which our technical people seem to be doing a great job.

Can go on and on with this report but I will end it here, for more information please see their site [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)

Gratefully

Chris Alphonse  
Cowichan Tribes Councillor

