

## UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

## OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

November 5, 2024

B.C. School Boards Via Email Only

RE: UBCIC Resolution 2024-57 "Provincial MMIWG2S+ Anti-Violence Curriculum"

Dear B.C. School Boards,

We are writing with respect to Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Resolution 2024-57 "Provincial MMIWG2S+ Anti-Violence Curriculum" which was presented, affirmed, and endorsed unanimously at the UBCIC Annual General Assembly on September 26, 2024 (enclosed)

By Resolution 2024-57, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on school districts, administrators and educators to implement Call for Justice 11.1 to educate and provide awareness in all levels of education about MMIWG2S+ and the root causes of violence

For your awareness, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly also call on the Government of British Columbia to co-develop province-wide anti-violence curriculum that specifically addresses and prevents the crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ people, and to work with First Nations, First Nations organizations including the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Indigenous women and violence prevention organizations, School District 58, survivors and families of MMIWG2S+ in the co-development of anti-violence MMIWG2S+ curriculum.

Please keep us updated as this work develops.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

President

Chief Don Tom Vice-President Chief Marilyn Slett Secretary-Treasurer

CC: UBCIC Chiefs Council

First Nations Education Steering Committee

School District 58

Encl: UBCIC Resolution 2024-57

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## OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURES UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly
September 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024
Musqueam Community Centre, x<sup>w</sup>məok<sup>w</sup>əy'əm (Musqueam Territory)

Resolution no. 2024-57

## RE: Provincial MMIWG2S+ Anti-Violence Curriculum

**WHEREAS** widespread research and reports including the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls have made concrete recommendations recognizing education as integral to the prevention of systemic gender-based violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+people;

**WHEREAS** in 2023 School District 58 Nicola-Similkameen piloted an Indigenized version of *Kids in the Know* curriculum to educate elementary and middle school children about Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and promote safety and violence prevention;

WHEREAS *Kids in the Know* is the <u>Canadian Centre for Child Protection</u>'s national safety education program. The program engages students with interactive activities to help build skills that increase their personal safety and reduce their risk of victimization online and offline;

**WHEREAS** the Indigenized curriculum piloted by School District 58 included traditional story, traditional activities, as well as the *Kids in the Know* and MMIWG lessons. The pilot has been well-met by administrators, educators, parents and students and is an integral step in promoting a culture of health and safety for future generations throughout the province;

**WHEREAS** on June 10, 2024, administrative representatives from School District 58 reported out to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on the Indigenized *Kids in the Know* MMIWG curriculum;

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**WHEREAS** the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

**Article 7(1):** Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person;

Article 7(2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 22(1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration;

(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination;

WHEREAS the MMIWG2S+ crisis is deeply rooted and spans B.C.'s urban, rural and remote communities. Given the ongoing realities of violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people in the province, preventative education initiatives should be expanded, formalized and adopted as curriculum within the public education system province-wide;

**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolutions 2023-32; 2023-10; 2022-36; and 2021-31, the UBCIC Chiefs Council has worked to address issues of missing Indigenous people and gender-based violence and to advocate for the implementation of the Calls for Justice; and

WHEREAS Call for Justice 11.1 calls "upon all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions and education authorities to educate and provide awareness to the public about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and about the issues and root causes of violence they experience. All curriculum development and programming should be done in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, especially Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Such education and awareness must include historical and current truths about the genocide against Indigenous Peoples through state laws, policies, and colonial practices. It should include, but not be limited to, teaching Indigenous history, law, and practices from Indigenous perspectives and the use of Their Voices Will Guide Us with children and youth."

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of British Columbia to co-develop province-wide anti-violence curriculum that specifically addresses and prevents the crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of British Columbia to work with First Nations, First Nations organizations including the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Indigenous women and violence prevention

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organizations, School District 58, survivors and families of MMIWG2S+ in the co-development of anti-violence MMIWG2S+ curriculum; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on school districts, administrators and educators to implement Call for Justice 11.1 to educate and provide awareness in all levels of education about MMIWG2S+ and the root causes of violence.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Osoyoos Indian Band (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief Elgin Cutler, Witset First Nation

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: September 26, 2024

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