



# BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Resolution 1/2007

June 28, 2007 Okanagan Indian Band, Vernon, BC

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**SUBJECT:** DEVELOPMENT OF A FIRST NATIONS COMMON NETWORK SERVICES  
(FNCS) ORGANIZATION

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Keith Matthew, Simpcw First Nation

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief John Smith, Tlowtsis Tribe

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**DECISION:** Carried By Consensus

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**WHEREAS:** The First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) is mandated to develop a Technology Plan to address issues, including:

- i high speed internet connection,
- ii technology skills development, and
- iii development of technical support.

**WHEREAS:** Much has been accomplished but there are still approximately 100+ communities without broadband connectivity. BC has committed to connecting these communities and they, as well as the Leadership Council on behalf of FNTC, continue to lobbying Canada to provide matching funding. The Connecting Communities Agreement of 2005 provided many currently served communities with a broadband point of presence. It did not, however, provide a 'last mile' solution which would distribute broadband to all community buildings. Most communities are not large enough to build a business case to become their own ISP (internet service provider), nor has there been a local ISP willing to serve the community.

**WHEREAS:** FNTC is proposing to aggregate the 100+ communities still to be served and communities that have not distributed their broadband throughout the community in a Common Network Services organization, including ISP and Help Desk functions, to ensure the sustainability of a broadband network in small rural and remote communities. Opportunities to provide other common services i.e. GIS, multimedia, information management, etc. could be developed as needed. Without such a common services organization, many of the small communities will not have the resources to use technology as a tool of transformative change.

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Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007, Vernon, BC



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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chiefs in Assembly direct the BC Regional Chief to mandate the First Nations Technology Council to develop the concept of First Nations Common Network Services organization with First Nations Network Services being the foundation.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chiefs in Assembly direct the BC Regional Chief to support FNTC in seeking legal and professional organizational development advice to recommend the most appropriate organization required to provide common network services, including common ISP services: – cooperative, joint venture with industry partner(s), consortium of First Nations communities or Tribal Councils, etc.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that connectivity to communities should go beyond connecting administration offices and should include all households.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that connectivity standards must be defined to include the ability to do clinical telehealth and to transfer information, such as land files included in geographic information systems.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that the BCAFN Chiefs in Assembly direct the Regional Chief to Support FNTC in seeking funding to develop a First Nations Common Network Services organization that could form a base from which to build on for application support and other common services.

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