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Comprehensive Business Case for the
\$22M Urban Indigenous
Declaration Act
Engagement Fund



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
INTRODUCTION	4
BACKGROUND	5
Urban Indigenous Peoples	5
Diverse Perspectives	5
The Role of Urban Coalitions	5
Consultation and Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples	6
RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES	8
Activity One. Establish Provincial Managing Partnership	8
Activity Two. \$4M Investment In 4 Urban Coalitions	8
Activity Three. \$18M Investment In Additional 18 Urban Coalitions	9
Activity Four. Establish Engagement Structures Success Measures.....	10
CONCLUSION	11
APPENDIX A – LINKED ACTIVITIES TO DECLARATION ACT ACTION PLAN..	12
APPENDIX B – KEY ACTIVITIES METHODOLOGY	17

Executive Summary

There are more than 237,130 Indigenous people who live off-reserve in B.C., which is 82% of B.C.'s total Indigenous population. With exception to the 24,000 registered Métis people in the province, **there is no formal coordinated infrastructure to consult and cooperate with the Urban Indigenous community** - a statutory duty enshrined within Section 3 of B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act).

This document presents the business case for the development of a province-wide approach to an urban Indigenous engagement and consultation system through a **\$22M Urban Indigenous Declaration Act Engagement Fund (UIDAEF)**. The UIDAEF is not political and does not seek to create an Indigenous Governing Body, nor conflict with or replace the important work between the Province and First Nations in B.C., or members of the MNBC, nor speak on behalf of these groups. UIDAEF seeks to empower grassroots conversations and processes through multi-year funding contributions to Urban Indigenous Coalitions and regional hubs to support their capacity to engage with the Government on: a) implementation of the Declaration Act Action Plan and b) alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Specifically, four coordinated actions linked to Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Declaration Act include:

1. **Establish a Provincial Managing Partnership** between Urban Coalition leads from current and emerging coalitions and Ministries of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
2. **Invest \$4M in four Urban Coalitions** (Prince George, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria) over four years.
3. **Invest \$18M in 18 additional existing and emergent Urban Coalitions or Regional Urban Hubs** over four years.
4. **Establish Engagement Structure Success Measures** to track progress on engagement and consultation with Government.

Investing in a \$22M UIDAEF establishes the opportunity for the Province to achieve its legal Declaration Act duties and for the Urban Indigenous community to strengthen relationships, capacity, and resources that serve more than 237,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who live off-reserve.

Introduction

British Columbia is home to over 290,200 Indigenous people, and just under 82 percent of them live off-reserve in cities, towns, villages and remote communities¹.

Section 3 of B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) requires that the Province consult and cooperate with all Indigenous Peoples living both on and off-reserve and "take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the Declaration [on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples]". Furthermore, the Act requires that the Declaration Act Action Plan and Annual Report is prepared and implemented in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples in B.C. (as per Section 4(2) and 5(2)).

However, B.C. lacks a formal mechanism to enable cohesive, systematic consultation and cooperation with Indigenous people who live off-reserve², with exception to 24,000 people who are official members of the Métis Nation BC (MNBC)³. As such, the Province is unable to ensure that all Indigenous Peoples are fully involved partners in the consultation and cooperation process and that they have opportunities to influence the outcome of matters that may affect them⁴.

This document presents the business case for the development of a province-wide approach to an urban Indigenous engagement and consultation system through a \$22M Urban Indigenous Declaration Act Engagement Fund. The fund is not political, does not seek to create an Indigenous Governing Body, and does not seek to conflict with or replace the important work between the Province and First Nations in B.C., or members of the MNBC, nor speak on behalf of these groups. The Urban Indigenous Engagement Fund will provide multi-year funding contributions to Urban Indigenous Coalitions and regional hubs to support their capacity to engage with the Province of B.C. on the implementation of the Declaration Act Action Plan and alignment of provincial laws with UNDRIP. Background data and context is provided, in addition to four proposed key actions for 82 percent of British Columbia's Indigenous population.

Background

Urban¹ Indigenous Peoples

There are over 237,000 First Nations (55%), Métis (41%) and Inuit (0.7%) people living off-reserve in B.C.⁵. Indigenous Peoples have been moving from their home communities into urban and rural areas for decades. Whether moving by choice or by force, Indigenous Peoples exercise their inherent and legal right to Freedom of Movement as per Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶.

Diverse Perspectives

Urban Indigenous people in B.C. carry diverse and ranging perspectives grounded in cultures, lands and languages from any one of the 750+ First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities throughout Canada. Urban people need spaces and dedicated infrastructure to ensure all Indigenous voices can be heard towards key areas of the Declaration Act. A coordinated, formal engagement system must not replicate past colonial models where one specific group speaks on behalf of another diverse group without prior agreement⁷.

The Role of Urban Coalitions

Over the past 14 years, four federally funded Urban Indigenous Coalitions emerged in BC, representing leadership from a range of Indigenous organizations in social, cultural, economic, health, housing, human resources, and education and more. Urban Indigenous Coalitions are non-political grassroots networks and include:

- The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) was formed in 2009 to serve as a collective for non-profit urban Indigenous agencies in the metro Vancouver area and has 23 member agencies, and now serves as an Urban Coalition.
- Prince George Urban Indigenous Coalition currently represents 10 Indigenous serving organizations and three Nations with a vision to “work

¹ Urban Indigenous is a placeholder term for Indigenous people who don't live on reserve, but who do may live within their traditional territories, as well as within cities, towns, villages, and rural and remote communities.

to create a future where Indigenous people have our voices fully included, speak for ourselves and engage on our teams”⁸

- The Victoria Coalition originally formed as the Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue in 2018 and sought to understand the reconciliation needs of this entire community. It has since evolved to be guided by the Greater Victoria Urban Leadership Table, an urban coalition of Indigenous partners engaging in a collaborative approach to advance reconciliation and promote positive impacts for Indigenous peoples in the Victoria area.
- The Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (SUILC)⁹ was formed in 2015 as a coalition of organizations that advocate for 13,000+ Indigenous people living in Surrey¹⁰.

Beyond the four formal Urban Coalition structures, there are more than 700 Indigenous organizations serving the off-reserve community¹¹ including rural and remote areas. Many of these organizations were established in the 1950s and beyond in response to the lifting of the federal travel ban¹² that prohibited First Nations people from leaving their reserves without the consent of the Indian Agent; enfranchisement¹³; residential school survivors, and; Sixties Scoop survivors, to name a few. In the last five decades, organizations have continued to grow in support of urban people who may choose to move from their traditional territories and home communities to pursue education, employment, relationships and more. More recently, urban organizations are supporting Indigenous Peoples who are forcibly removed from their lands due to the climate crisis.

Consultation and Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples

Section 3 of the Declaration Act requires that the Province of B.C. “in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples” take “all measures necessary” to ensure consistency between the laws of B.C. and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Implementing Section 3 means the Province must work to ensure better consistency and clarity of process for involving all Indigenous Peoples in policy and legislative development.

Over the past few years, the following measures have taken place:

- Ongoing resolutions passed through the First Nations Leadership Council on behalf of mandates provided by Title and Rights Holders such as the 2018 Implementing the Commitment Document between FNLC and the Province.
- **2021** Letter of Intent proposing a partnership between MNBC and B.C. that respects Métis self-determination.
- **2022** Development of B.C.'s Declaration Act Secretariat to support routine cross-government measures for including Indigenous Peoples in policy and legislative development. The Secretariat released an Interim Approach in October 2022¹⁴.
- **2022** Shared Priorities Framework between Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations and Province.
- **2023** Provincial Urban Indigenous Leaders Online Gathering for 51 participants, hosted by Victoria Native Friendship Centre and supported by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, to talk about urban Indigenous voices and explore how this can inform Declaration Act.
- **2023** \$200M Declaration Act Engagement Fund for First Nations to support their capacity to engage with the Province of B.C. on the implementation of the Declaration Act Action Plan and alignment of Provincial laws with UNDRIP¹⁵.

Despite these measures, over 213,000 urban Indigenous people living off-reserve in B.C. who are not registered with MNBC are unable to access any of the structures aimed at consulting and cooperating with Indigenous people towards the Action Plan and Section 3 of the Declaration Act.

Recommended Activities

Effective consultation and cooperation with urban Indigenous Peoples towards achieving the objectives of the UN Declaration can succeed through a \$22M Urban Indigenous Declaration Act Engagement Fund, based on a set of four key activities to occur over a period of four years (see Appendix B for methodology). **Key activities are connected to 22 of the 89 Declaration Act Action Plan Actions and designed to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration** (see Appendix A for linkages between key actions and Action Plan). Each activity is accompanied by a set of outcome measures tied back to the Action Plan to track progress to maximize effectiveness of the investment into the urban Indigenous community.

Activity One. Establish Provincial Managing Partnership (PMP)

Consists of an overarching formal agreement between Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Urban Indigenous Coalition leads from current and emerging Urban Coalitions.

- Managing partnership will enable funding to flow directly into communities through building on existing initiatives and opportunities and eliminating redundancies.
- Relationships are built on cooperation and collaboration with shared values, vision and goals.

Activity Two. \$4M investment in 4 Urban Coalitions

As Per Section 3 and 4 of Declaration Act: Section 3 mandates “consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples” to take “all measures necessary” to ensure consistency between the laws of B.C. and the Declaration Act. Section 4 requires implementation of the Action plan in “consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.”

- Annual \$250K investments over four years in each of the four current Urban Coalitions (Prince George, Vancouver, Victoria, Surrey) totaling \$1M per year and \$4M total by year four.

- Enables Urban Coalitions to adequately staff and resource engagement structures to support full participation in engagement, consultation and cooperation with the Province of BC without having to subsidize the costs from their own service agencies or own source revenues.
- Enables four Urban Coalitions to mentor new or emergent Coalitions within or beyond current regions and share best practices.
- Supports and enhances sustainable capacity development within Urban Indigenous communities to provide knowledge, advice and guidance that assists Government in amending or developing laws to align with the UN Declaration and informing activities to implement the Declaration Act.
- Ensures adequate time for consultation and cooperation as per the B.C. Declaration Secretariat's Interim Approach to Implementing the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Activity Three. \$18M investment in Developing Additional 18 Urban Coalitions or Regional Urban Hubs

As Per Section 3 and 4 of Declaration Act: Section 3 mandates "consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples" to take "all measures necessary" to ensure consistency between the laws of B.C. and the Declaration Act. Section 4 requires implementation of the Action plan in "consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples."

- Annual \$250K investments over four years for existing or emergent urban Indigenous engagement coalitions beyond the current four in Prince George, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria including in rural and remote areas, totaling \$4.5M per year and \$18M total by year four.
- Enables existing or emergent Urban Coalitions to adequately staff and resource engagement structures to support full participation in engagement, consultation and cooperation with the Province of BC without having to subsidize the costs from their own service agencies or own source revenues.

- Enables engagement with Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve and living outside of Prince George, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria, including within rural and/or remote areas.
- Supports and enhances sustainable capacity development within Urban Indigenous communities to provide knowledge, advice and guidance that assists Government in amending or developing laws to align with the UN Declaration and informing activities to implement the Declaration Act.
- Ensures adequate time for consultation and cooperation as per the B.C. Declaration Secretariat's Interim Approach to Implementing the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Activity Four. Establish Engagement Structures Success Measures

As Per Section 5 of Declaration Act: Section 5 requires regular reporting and monitoring of progress towards alignment of laws and implementation the Action Plan.

- A clear set of outcomes, indicators and measures as defined by all parties involved will link to Action Plan and enable progress tracking on effective engagement and consultation structures with Government.
- Generated outcomes will align and feed into annual Declaration Action Plan Annual Reports.

Conclusion

There are more than 237,130 Indigenous people who live off-reserve in B.C., which is 82% of B.C.'s total Indigenous population. With the exception of the 24,000 registered Métis people with MNBC, there is no formal coordinated infrastructure to engage, consult, and cooperate with the Urban Indigenous community - a statutory duty enshrined within Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Declaration Act.

Investing in the \$22M Fund to support the strengthening of existing and emergent Urban Coalitions, and the establishment of a Provincial Managing Partnership, offers the Province an opportunity to achieve its legal duties within the Declaration Act while at the same time continuing its similar and critical work with B.C. First Nations and MNBC. The Fund also offers an opportunity to the Urban Indigenous community to strengthen relationships, capacity, and resources that serve thousands of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples. **Grassroots conversations and engagement infrastructure enabled through the Urban Indigenous Engagement Fund will support the work of ensuring that Provincial laws are in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the Declaration Act Action Plan gets implemented.**

Appendix A – Linked Key Activities to Declaration Act Action Plan

DECLARATION ACT ACTIONS LINKED TO ACTIVITY 1 - Establish Provincial Managing Partnership (PMP)

#	Declaration Act Action Plan "Action"	Details	Partners
4.11	Increase the availability, accessibility and the continuum of Indigenous-led and community-based social services and supports that are trauma-informed, culturally safe and relevant, and address a range of holistic wellness needs for those who are in crisis, at-risk or have experienced violence, trauma and/or significant loss.	The Provincial Managing Partnership will enable funding to flow directly into off-reserve Indigenous communities through building on existing Indigenous led initiatives and opportunities and eliminating redundancies.	Urban Indigenous Coalition Leads; Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
4.13	Increase the availability and accessibility of culturally safe substance use services, including through the renovation and construction of Indigenous-run treatment centres and integration of land-based and traditional approaches to healing.	The Provincial Managing Partnership will enable funding to flow directly into off-reserve Indigenous communities through building on existing Indigenous led initiatives and opportunities and eliminating redundancies.	Urban Indigenous Coalition Leads; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
4.16	Co-develop a B.C. specific fiscal framework in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit, and in consultation with key Indigenous organizations to support and move forward with jurisdiction over child and family services.	The Provincial Managing Partnership will enable funding to flow directly into off-reserve Indigenous communities through building on existing Indigenous led initiatives and opportunities and eliminating redundancies.	Urban Indigenous Coalition Leads; Ministry of Children and Family Development
4.21	Bring together key Indigenous urban leaders to create a provincial urban Indigenous advisory table to develop and implement a five-year plan to address the priorities of urban Indigenous Peoples, including a focus on Elders, youth, children, women, men, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and persons with disabilities.	Strengthening existing Urban Indigenous Coalitions and funding support to develop new or emerging Coalitions will contribute to a Provincial Managing Partnership where representatives of each Coalition can come together to collaborate with Government. This approach mitigates past colonial models where one specific group speaks on behalf of another diverse group without prior agreement.	Urban Indigenous Coalition Leads; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

4.22	Ministers and executives across the provincial government social sector will meet annually with urban Indigenous service organization leaders, such as the provincial urban Indigenous advisory table (see Action 4.21), to discuss successes, innovations, and challenges of supporting the social, cultural and economic needs of urban Indigenous Peoples.	Strengthening existing Urban Indigenous Coalitions and funding support to develop new or emerging Coalitions will contribute to a Provincial Managing Partnership where representatives of each Coalition can come together to collaborate with Government.	Urban Indigenous Coalition Leads; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
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DECLARATION ACT ACTIONS LINKED TO ACTIVITY 2 and 3 - \$4M investment in the 4 Urban Coalitions and \$18M investment in development of 18 additional Urban Coalitions or Regional Urban Hubs

#	Declaration Act Action Plan "Action"	Details	Partners
1.2	Shift from short term transactional arrangements to the co-development of long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, decision making and economic independence	Significant support for current and emergent Urban Indigenous Coalitions will allow the urban Indigenous community to plan for a long-term engagement structure that ensures ongoing effective consultation and cooperation with the B.C. Government as per Section 3 of the Declaration Act.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
3.1	Develop essential training in partnership with Indigenous organizations, and delivered to the B.C. public service, public institutions and corporations that aims to build foundational understanding and competence about the history and rights of Indigenous peoples, treaty process, rights and title, the UN declaration, the B.C. Declaration Act, the dynamics of proper respectful relations, Indigenous specific racism, and meaningful reconciliation.	Many Urban Indigenous organizations belonging to Urban Coalitions have already developed essential training on history and rights of Indigenous people, respectful relations, Indigenous specific racism and reconciliation and more. Expanding resourcing for Urban Coalitions enables this work to continue, strengthen, and extend to public institutions and the B.C. public service.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; public service agency, Ministry of Finance - Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office
3.3	Conduct an external review of Indigenous specific racism and discrimination in the provincial public education system, and create a strategy including resources and supports, to address findings.	Urban Coalitions include school boards and school representatives. Many Urban Indigenous organizations belonging to Urban Coalitions are connected to work related to working against Indigenous specific racism.	Ministry of Education and Child Care

#	Declaration Act Action Plan "Action"	Details	Partners
3.5	Provide resources to Indigenous organizations to improve public understanding of Indigenous histories, rights, cultures, languages and the negative impacts of Indigenous specific racism	Urban Indigenous Coalitions offer access to hundreds of Indigenous led organizations throughout BC.	Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
3.8	Develop and implement community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, beginning with the foundational activities in A Path Forward: Priorities And Early Strategies for B.C. and steps towards achieving the mandate commitment to develop a gender-based violence action plan.	Urban Indigenous organizations belonging to current and emergent Urban Coalitions play a key role in community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Finance - Gender Equity Office
4.6	Promote culturally relevant sport, physical activity and recreation initiatives and opportunities that increase Indigenous engagement, participation and excellence in both traditional and mainstream sports for individuals in both urban and rural or remote areas.	Strengthening and expanding Urban Indigenous Coalitions will build capacity to both engage with the Province of B.C. towards promoting and strengthening culturally relevant sport, physical activity and recreational initiatives in urban and rural or remote areas.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
4.9	As part of the implementation of the Accessible British Columbia Act, support the identification, prevention and removal of barriers for Indigenous persons with disabilities. This includes ensuring that the development of accessibility standards considers the rights recognized and affirmed by the UN Declaration.	Strengthening and expanding Urban Indigenous Coalitions will build capacity for Indigenous people living off-reserve to support the identification, prevention and removal of barriers for Indigenous persons with disabilities.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
4.15	Incorporate Indigenous experiences and knowledge of poverty and well-being into ongoing poverty reduction efforts and the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy. The strategy will recognize the ongoing impacts of colonialism and include Indigenous-identified actions and progress measures.	Strengthening and establishing 22 Urban Coalitions can ensure that 213,000+ Indigenous people living off-reserve and throughout B.C. have a well-coordinated opportunity to contribute Indigenous knowledge and experiences into poverty reduction strategy.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

#	Declaration Act Action Plan "Action"	Details	Partners
4.17	In collaboration with B.C. First Nations and Métis Peoples, and Inuit, continue implementing changes to substantially reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care through increased prevention and family support services at all stages of contact with the child welfare system.	The Urban Coalitions offer an opportunity for a well-coordinated approach to collaboration and strengthening Indigenous led resources that increase prevention and reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Children and Family Development
4.21	Bring together key Indigenous urban leaders to create a provincial urban Indigenous advisory table to develop and implement a five-year plan to address the priorities of urban Indigenous Peoples, including a focus on Elders, youth, children, women, men, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and persons with disabilities.	Strengthening existing Urban Indigenous Coalitions and funding support to develop new or emerging Coalitions will contribute to a Provincial Managing Partnership where representatives of each Coalition can come together to collaborate with Government. This approach mitigates past colonial models where one specific group speaks on behalf of another diverse group without prior agreement.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
4.22	Ministers and executives across the provincial government social sector will meet annually with urban Indigenous service organization leaders, such as the provincial urban Indigenous advisory table (see Action 4.21), to discuss successes, innovations, and challenges of supporting the social, cultural and economic needs of urban Indigenous Peoples.	Strengthening existing Urban Indigenous Coalitions and funding support to develop new or emerging Coalitions will contribute to a Provincial Managing Partnership where representatives of each Coalition can come together to collaborate with Government.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
4.24	Expand support to Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organizations that serve the needs of urban Indigenous people in B.C. while also acknowledging that Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organizations play a vital role for those that wish to connect to their cultures and traditions.	Strengthening existing Urban Indigenous Coalitions and funding support to develop new or emerging Coalitions will contribute to a more equitable process of ensuring funds reach Friendship Centres as well as other urban Indigenous organizations serving Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
4.25	Work with Indigenous Peoples to build more on- and off-reserve housing and pursue new federal contributions.	Urban Indigenous organizations connected to existing or emergent Urban Coalitions already offer off-reserve housing to the Indigenous community. The Urban	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry

#	Declaration Act Action Plan "Action"	Details	Partners
		Coalitions offers a well-coordinated opportunity to co-develop a coordinated provincial strategy in partnership with Government.	of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
4.29	Establish an Indigenous-led working group to develop a strategy for the revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C., including potential legislative supports.	Urban Indigenous organizations connected to existing or emergent Urban Coalitions already offer Indigenous language hubs for Indigenous people living away from their home territories. The Urban Coalitions offers a well-coordinated opportunity to co-develop a coordinated provincial strategy in partnership with Government.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Education and Childcare, Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training
4.40	Ensure Indigenous collaboration in the development and implementation of the BC Economic Plan, including a technology and innovation roadmap.	Many Urban Indigenous organizations connected to existing or emergent Urban Coalitions are involved in and can further contribute to economic development, technology and innovation. Urban Coalitions offer a well-coordinated opportunity to co-develop a coordinated provincial strategy in partnership with Government.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
4.41	Work with First Nations, Métis chartered communities and urban Indigenous organizations to provide funding for self-determined, community-led programs for Indigenous Peoples to upgrade skills, obtain credentials, secure employment, and develop and support community economies.	The Urban Coalitions offer an opportunity for a well-coordinated approach to collaboration and strengthening Indigenous led resources that offer programs for Indigenous Peoples to upgrade skills, obtain credentials, secure employment and develop and support community economies.	Urban Indigenous Coalitions; Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

DECLARATION ACT ACTIONS LINKED TO ACTIVITY 4 - Establishing "Engagement Structures" Success Measures

#	Declaration Act Action Plan "Action"	Details	Partners
4.23	Undertake a cross-government review of provincial supports and services for Indigenous Peoples in urban settings and develop a plan with clear timelines that will provide greater collaboration and coordination to meet needs.	Cross-government review is enabled through participation of PMP, wide network of Urban Coalitions and established 'Engagement Structures' measurement framework.	Urban Indigenous Coalition Leads; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Appendix B – Key Activities Methodology

Activity One. Establish Provincial Managing Partnership (PMP)

- This action is linked to Action 2 and 3 (investing in Urban Coalitions)
- As Urban Coalitions strengthen and develop within communities and regions in areas beyond Prince George, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria, such as: Northeast BC; Northwest BC; Kootenay Boundary; East Kootenays; Central, South, North Interior; Cariboo, there will be more representative leadership at the PMP.
- Urban Coalition representatives will be selected by their local coalition.

Activity Two. \$4M investment in Urban Coalitions

- Explore a partnership with an entity to administer provincial funds to the four Urban Coalitions in Prince George, Victoria, Vancouver and Surrey.
- Establish similar objectives to the \$200M First Nations' Declaration Act Engagement Fund:
 - Provide quick and easy access to four-year funding that focuses on reducing typical application and reporting barriers.
 - Provide impactful funding amounts that empower Urban Coalitions to more fully participate in coalition-to-government engagement and consultation with the Province of B.C. without having to subsidize the costs from their own government programs or own source revenues.
 - Support and enhance sustainable capacity development within urban Indigenous communities to provide knowledge, advice, and guidance that assists the Province of B.C. in amending or developing laws to align with the UN Declaration.
 - Support and inform activities to implement the Declaration Act.

Activity Three. \$18M investment in Developing Additional 18 Urban Coalitions or Regional Urban Hubs

- Explore a partnership an entity to administer provincial funds to existing or emergent Urban Coalitions outside of Prince George, Victoria, Vancouver and Surrey.
- Establish similar objectives to the \$200M First Nations' Declaration Act Engagement Fund.
- Conduct environmental scan to identify urban Indigenous organizations within locations or regions not served by existing four Urban Coalitions and seek interest and capacity to serve as a part of the provincial infrastructure for urban Indigenous engagement and consultation for the Declaration Act and Action Plan
- Administer annual Urban Indigenous in-person gatherings in partnership between Urban Coalitions and Government to support continued relationship building, peer networks, and increasing engagement capacity for Indigenous people living off-reserve. Annual gatherings could be held in the community served by the Urban Coalition, starting in Victoria, Prince George, Surrey and then Vancouver.

Activity Four. Establish Engagement Structures Success Measures

- Utilize the PMP to advise the work of setting clear outcomes, indicators and measures as defined by all parties involved that link to Action Plan.
- Structure and support provided to track quarterly progress engagement and consultation structures with Government.

References and End Notes

¹ Statistics Canada, 2021. Indigenous Population Profile, 2021 Census of Population. Profile Tables. Retrieved on Sept 18, 2023 from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/ipp-ppa/index.cfm?Lang=E>

² Reciprocal Consulting (2023). What We Heard: Report from Provincial Urban Indigenous Leaders Online Gathering. Available at <https://urbanvoices.ca>

³ MNBC represents the section 35 rights of over 24,000 Métis citizens who are registered with MNBC. See <https://www.mnbc.ca/about-mnbc>

⁴ BC Declaration Act Secretariat (2023). Interim Approach to Implementing the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Retrieved on Sept 28, 2023 from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/ministries/indigenous-relations-reconciliation/das-interim-approach-to-section-3-of-the-declaration-act_report.pdf

⁵ Statistics Canada (2022). Indigenous identity by Registered or Treaty Indian status and residence by Indigenous geography: Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved on Sept 27, 2023 from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=9810026401>

⁶ UN, (1948). Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Available at <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf>

⁷ Reciprocal Consulting (2023). What We Heard: Report from Provincial Urban Indigenous Leaders Online Gathering. Available at <https://urbanvoices.ca>

⁸ Prince George Urban Indigenous Coalition (2021). Strategic Plan.

⁹ SUILC has five strategic priorities: 1) create and strengthen partnerships that will benefit urban Indigenous people in Surrey 2) Expand the urban Indigenous leadership capacity in Surrey 3) Improve and grow programs and services for urban Indigenous people in Surrey 4) Increase education and understanding about the urban Indigenous community in Surrey 5) Increase funding for urban Indigenous programs and services in Surrey.

¹⁰ Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (2021). Implementing UNDRIP in B.C.: Perspectives of the Urban Indigenous Community in Surrey. Retrieved on Oct 13, 2023 from: <https://surreyindigenousleadership.ca/downloads/suic-undrip-implementation-report.pdf>

¹¹ Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (2023). Guide to Indigenous Organizations and Services. Retrieved on Sept 27, 2023 from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/guide-to-indigenous-organization-and-services>

¹² The Pass System was developed in 1885 because of white settler fears over increased Indigenous mobility and further resistance, such as the Northwest Resistance in the Red River Valley. The Pass System required Indigenous people to have written permission from the local Indian Agent in order to leave the reserve. It was still being enforced into the 1940s in BC.

¹³ Enfranchisement was an assimilation policy used to terminate a person's Indian status and sever their connections to their identities, culture and communities. For more see UBC Indigenous Foundations, 2023. Enfranchisement. Found at:

<https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/enfranchisement/#:~:text=Enfranchisement%20is%20a%20legal%20process,assimilation%20policies%20regarding%20Aboriginal%20peoples.>

¹³ See: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023IRR0022-000618>

¹⁴ Declaration Act Secretariat (2023). Interim Approach to Implement the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Retrieved on ept 27, 2023 from:
<https://declaration.gov.bc.ca/declaration-act-secretariat/interim-approach/>

¹⁵ See <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023IRR0022-000618>