

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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August 23, 2011

Steve Reed, President
British Columbia Soccer Association
Suite 510-375 Water Street
Vancouver, BC, V6B 1B6
Via facsimile: (604) 299-9610

Dr. Dominic Maestracci, President
Canada Soccer Association
237 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1R2
Via facsimile: (613) 237-1516

RE: Call for Partnership with Native Indian Football Association of BC (NIFA)

Dear Mr. Reed and Dr. Maestracci,

We are pleased to be writing you both in order to call on the BC Soccer Association and the Canada Soccer Association to partner with the Native Indian Football Association of BC (NIFA), in development and preparation of soccer teams that will travel to and compete at the Indigenous Pilot soccer matches and the Inaugural Indigenous World Cup in Brazil.

As you likely know, NIFA is the Aboriginal soccer body for developing and providing soccer opportunities for Aboriginal players from the grassroots to the International forum. NIFA is uniquely positioned to carry out its philosophy of promoting traditional disciplines and a holistic approach that will recognize the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects required in individual and community life.

By resolution, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) fully supports the work of NIFA, particularly the development of elite youth soccer teams that have the opportunity to participate at international competitions, and development of a National Level Soccer Program of Men and Women to compete at the Inaugural Indigenous soccer programs in Brazil in 2011 and 2013. UBCIC strongly believes that Aboriginal athletes must have access to participation in high-level sports teams and events in order to develop a range of leadership skills, encourage an active lifestyle, and provide organized opportunities for travel and social interaction.

We are confident that a partnership between NIFA, the BC Soccer Association, and the Canada Soccer Association will contribute to the success of our First Nations soccer players, particularly in accessing international opportunities. We once again urge you to work with NIFA and support the development and preparation of BC Aboriginal soccer teams to travel to and compete at the Indigenous Pilot soccer matches and the Inaugural Indigenous World Cup in Brazil.

We look forward to your positive response.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President



Chief Robert Chamberlin
Vice-President



Chief Marilyn Baptiste
Secretary-Treasurer

CC: Native Indian Football Association of BC (NIFA)

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
JUNE 1ST - JUNE 2ND, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2011-28

RE: Support of the Native Indian Football Association of BC (NIFA) Soccer Programs

WHEREAS the Native Indian Football Association (NIFA) is the Aboriginal soccer body for developing and providing soccer opportunities for Aboriginal players from the grassroots to the International forum;

WHEREAS NIFA is recognized for developing a high standard of coaches who in turn support and coach community village teams and Aboriginal Team BC, and coaching must be of the highest standard;

WHEREAS the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* sets out in Article 24(2) that “Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”;

WHEREAS NIFA is recognized for hosting provincial soccer tournaments and coordinating youth soccer camps across BC and Canada, and NIFA has built elite soccer teams and programs that play at provincial, national and international level tournaments;

WHEREAS NIFA has been given the opportunity to develop a national level program of men and women, which will be based in BC, working with other provincial Aboriginal soccer partners, that will select national level elite soccer players to participate in a pilot project of friendly matches in Brazil in 2013, and ultimately compete at the Inaugural Indigenous World Cup in 2016 in Brazil.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the Native Indian Football Association (NIFA) in organizing more youth and senior soccer tournaments and to raise the standard of coaches in the Aboriginal Community;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the development of elite youth soccer teams that have the opportunity to participate at international

competitions through NIFA, as well as the development of a National Level Soccer Program of Men and Women to compete at the inaugural indigenous Soccer Programs in Brazil in 2011 and 2013;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the mainstream soccer community in BC and Canada to partner with NIFA in development and preparation of soccer teams that will travel to and compete at the Indigenous Pilot Soccer matches and the Inaugural Indigenous World Cup in Brazil.

Moved: Chief Geronimo Squinas, Lhooskuz Dene Nation
Seconded: Chief Lenora Fletcher, High Bar First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2nd, 2011