



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting Summary of Process to Date

Virtual Town Hall with Leadership
May 19, 2026



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Purpose of meeting

- To provide a debrief of activities undertaken to prepare for a Fall 2026 First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting
- To outline outstanding areas for discussion and decision
- To seek direction on emerging areas under consideration



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Engagement Plan



- Three Virtual Town Halls have been held with summary reports and other supporting documents are available on the AFN's website
- Discussions on the FNFMM are being held at AFN national forums, Chiefs Committees and with the AFN Councils
- The AFN has offered to attend regional assemblies to provide presentations on the FNFMM.
- AFN is advocating for funding support from the federal government to support regional discussions to help prepare and identify priorities for potential discussion at the FNFMM
- The Annual General Assembly will be important for regional caucuses, dialogue sessions and plenary discussions



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First Ministers' Meetings

- A First Ministers' Meeting (FMM) is a high-level political meeting that brings together the **Prime Minister of Canada and provincial and territorial Premiers**
- Focus on issues of national significance and major policy areas needing joint action like health care, the economy, emergency management
- Since 2005 (Kelowna Accord), First Nations have not been fully included in FMMs; no First Nations-specific full meetings with the Prime Minister and Premiers have occurred



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First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting: Charting a new path

- Prime Minister committed to a First Nation-First Ministers' meeting at the December AFN Special Chiefs Assembly
- Tentatively scheduled for Fall 2026
- Driven by sustained AFN advocacy and the National Chief's engagement with Premiers in summer 2025
- Advocating for a full day meeting with First Ministers and one to two days of pre-meetings with leadership.



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What we have heard so far

- A number of key themes have emerged from AFN engagements to date with First Nations leaders:
 - This must be an ongoing dialogue rather than a one-time event
 - Unity and focused agenda-setting will increase the likelihood of concrete outcomes
 - The FNFMM must address issues that cannot be resolved without all governments at the table
 - Ceremony must be incorporated throughout the process



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Next steps

- The AFN will continue to communicate with First Nations leadership to keep them updated on any developments regarding the FNFMM
- Engagements across Chiefs Committees, AFN Councils and regional gatherings and assemblies will continue
- The main topic of the AGA will be FNFMM planning
 - First Nations leadership will have this chance to identify priorities and discuss a final agenda for the FNFMM
 - There will also be a conversation on appropriate representation at the FNFMM (ie who will represent each region at the meeting)



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Discussion Topics:

- Overview of First Ministers' Meetings & Potential Outcomes
- Foundation in Ceremony and Respect for Protocols
- Regional Engagement & Representation
- Structuring Discussions at the 2026 Annual General Assembly



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Overview of FMM Process & Potential Outcomes

Preparation matters: Outcomes are largely set months before through agenda-shaping and influence

Relationships & alliances: Identify champions and allies amongst the Premiers to help push for a successful event and tangible investments; secure long-term commitments

Clarity & unity: Focused and aligned priorities will strengthen leverage

Precision & follow-through: Creating actionable plans and developing an ongoing process for next steps can help solidify results

Engagement Questions:

- What outcomes would define a successful FNFMM?
- What does an ongoing process look like for engagement between First Nations, the Prime Minister and Premiers?



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Foundation in Ceremony and Respect for Protocols

- A truly First Nations-led FNFMM agenda and process includes recognition of our cultures and ceremonies
- Leadership has been clear about the importance of grounding the FNFMM process in ceremony
- The AFN will speak directly with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to seek their advice and direction

Engagement Question:

- What ceremonial and protocol elements must be included to ground the FNFMM?



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Regional Engagement & Representation

Discussions with leadership to date generated the following key points for consideration:

- Chiefs in each province and regional level should work together to identify their top priorities
- Focusing on a limited number of priorities could improve the likelihood of achieving concrete outcomes
- Designate regional speakers and prepare speaking notes to support focused interventions
- Ensuring inclusive representation, including First Nations women, youth and communities facing crises

Engagement Questions:

- How can leadership advance shared national priorities while respecting regional distinctions and priorities?
- What process should guide the selection of regional representatives for a FNFMM?
- How should speaker selection be approached considering agenda time limitations and the need for balanced participation from Provincial, Territorial, and Federal partners?



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Structuring Discussions at the 2026 Annual General Assembly

- Appropriate time is needed for regional engagement and discussions at the AFN Annual General Assembly (AGA) in July; that is why the AFN has proposed that the meeting happen in Fall 2026
- The FNFMM will be thematic across discussions at the AGA, providing an opportunity for Chiefs in Assembly to provide direction to the AFN

Engagement Questions

- What discussion formats would best support dialogue and direction-setting at the AGA (dialogue sessions, main plenary, regional caucus)?
- What are the important elements that would be included in a resolution that would create clear direction and mandate for a FNFMM process?