

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 39/2026

TITLE: Support for Commonwealth Sport Declaration

SUBJECT: Sports

MOVED BY: Chief Joel Mykat, Ermineskin Cree Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
- ii. Article 31(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestation of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicine, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
- iii. Article 31(2): In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise these rights.

B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada adopted Calls to Action 87-91 on Sports and Reconciliation, which state:

- i. Call to Action 87: We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cherelhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

39 – 2026

Page 1 of 3

- ii. Call to Action 88: We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.
 - iii. Call to Action 89: We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sport participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.
 - iv. Call to Action 90: We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to establishing:
 - i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
 - ii. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
 - iii. Programs for coaches, trainers and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
 - iv. Anti-racism, awareness and training programs.
 - v. Call to Action 91: We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and that local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.
- C.** The front runners to this Declaration: the Maskwacis (Maskwachees) Declaration on Sports and subsequent World Indigenous Nations (WIN) Games Declaration in Brazil (2015) and Treaty No. 6 Territory (2017) culminated from the inclusion of Lacrosse as a demonstration sport in the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton to inclusion as an official event in the 2028 Olympic Games.
- D.** Acknowledging with the tremendous and persistent leadership of First Nations Chiefs, WIN Sports International and Olympic Games Ambassadors, the Commonwealth Games Federation made a historic and unanimous decision to adopt the Lekwungen Commonwealth Sport Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples.
- E.** Believing in the power of Sport and Traditional Games to make positive change, to gather Peoples, Tribes and Nations together, to promote healthier lifestyle choices, "to speak a language that children and youth understand", to lift up both First Nations, abled athletes and athletes with disabilities, as modelled by the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).
- F.** First Nations athletes, coaches, youth, and communities across Canada continue to face barriers to participation in sport and recreation, making national efforts to advance reconciliation and inclusion within sport systems an ongoing priority.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

39 – 2026
Page 2 of 3

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Acknowledge, in principle, the Lekwungen Commonwealth Sport Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples as an initiative intended to advance reconciliation through sport and traditional games.
2. Call on the Assembly of First Nations to promote awareness of the Lekwungen Commonwealth Sport Declaration and engage with federal, provincial, and territorial governments and sport organizations regarding its objectives and its potential contribution to reconciliation through sport and traditional games.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

39 – 2026
Page 3 of 3



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 40/2026

TITLE: Pairing Indigenous Knowledge Systems with Western-based Science to Rebuild Wild Fisheries

SUBJECT: Fisheries Conservation and Protection

MOVED BY: Chief Donald "Duffy" Edgars, Old Massett Village Council, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 13(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places, and persons.
- ii. Article 13(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal, and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.
- iii. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- iv. Article 31(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chuxelhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

40 – 2026
Page 1 of 3

maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

- B.** The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan (UNDA) states that Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is tasked with the following Action Plan Measures (APM), among others:
- i.** APM 36: Pursue amendments and reforms to fisheries legislation, regulation, or policies to support self-determination and the meaningful implementation and exercise of Indigenous fishing rights, including Aboriginal and treaty rights.
 - ii.** APM 40: Develop and employ mechanisms that respect and incorporate Indigenous Knowledge as a distinct knowledge system in the management of fisheries, fish habitat, conservation, marine safety and protection of the marine environment.
- C.** Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation, as a member of Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative and one of eight First Nations signatories to the Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement, is leading cutting-edge research to advance a Case Study on Pacific herring to demonstrate how pairing of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Western science and practices can improve fisheries conservation and management outcomes and lead to collaborative governance.
- D.** The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has passed Resolution 61/2018, *Respect, Protection, and Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems*, which directs the AFN to call on all levels of government to respect, honour and prioritize IKS policies and protocols that First Nations have established and to require free, prior and informed consent from First Nations regarding requests for the use of IKS.
- E.** The AFN has passed Resolution 11/2019, *Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Fisheries*, which directs the AFN to continue its advocacy work concerning IKS with DFO to respect First Nations' inherent rights, Treaties, title, and jurisdiction.
- F.** Research published in May 2025 found that out of 78 public documents produced or co-produced by DFO within the past five years, approximately 87% of these documents did not meaningfully include First Nations and/or IKS. Additionally, only 9% included Indigenous Peoples in some aspects of research, but not their IKS'.
- G.** Bill C-68, *an amendment to the Fisheries Act to provide more protection to fish and their habitat*, received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019, and included amendments to the *Fisheries Act*, including provisions outlining the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge in certain aspects of work administered by the Federal Government under the Act.
- H.** The House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) is concluding the statutory review of the *Fisheries Act* in the 45th Parliament and is expected to publish its Report in 2026.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1.** Mandate the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for increased resources, capacity and funding to support First Nations in the work carried out by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) concerning Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the development of regulations, guidelines, policies, and other related

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

40 – 2026
Page 2 of 3

tasks, that honours the ownership, control, access, possession (OCAP®) principles and maintains the intellectual property rights of First Nations sharing the knowledge.

2. Direct the AFN to call on the Minister of Fisheries, and any other relevant Ministers, to meet directly with representatives of First Nations, to identify a path forward for DFO to fulfill the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan Measure 40 as it relates to incorporating Indigenous Knowledge in the management of fisheries, fish habitat, conservation, marine safety, and protection of the marine environment.
3. Direct the AFN to explore policy and legislative changes for the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Canadian fisheries management and present options to the National Fisheries Committee by December 2026 Special Chiefs Assembly.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

40 – 2026
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 41/2026

TITLE: Settling Treaty Land Entitlement Claims Outside the Specific Claims Process

SUBJECT: Lands, Treaties, Specific Claims

MOVED BY: Chief Traveller Plaited Hair, Blood Tribe, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Troy (Bossman) Knowlton, Piikani Nation, AB

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- ii. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

B. Many Treaties made between First Nations and the Crown contain treaty land entitlement (TLE) provisions establishing the Crown's obligation to set apart reserves of a defined size, calculated in accordance with the TLE formulas specified in each Treaty. Canada's failure to fulfill these obligations means that First Nations continue to be denied the land and benefits they are owed under Treaty.

C. Outstanding TLE obligations are national in scope and affect First Nations across the country, including: the Blood Tribe under the Blackfoot Treaty of 1877 (Treaty No. 7); the fourteen Entitlement First Nations under the 1997 Manitoba Framework Agreement currently in litigation in Federal Court, along with the six Entitlement First Nations under that Agreement that have not yet ratified individual Treaty Entitlement Agreements; Entitlement First Nations under the 1992 Saskatchewan TLE Framework Agreement; Treaty

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

41 – 2026

Page 1 of 3

3 Nations in Ontario; and additional Treaty 8 First Nations with outstanding TLE obligations across Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and Saskatchewan.

- D. The federal Specific Claims Policy and the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act*, SC 2008, c 22, are statutorily limited and are unable to satisfactorily resolve certain categories of TLE claims, due to:
- i. claims exceeding the \$150 million cap on Specific Claims Tribunal awards;
 - ii. claims governed by framework agreements such as the 1992 Saskatchewan TLE Framework Agreement and the 1997 Manitoba Framework Agreement, which the Specific Claims Policy excludes from negotiation; and
 - iii. claims for which the remedy sought is the restitution of land, which the Specific Claims Tribunal cannot award.
- E. On April 12, 2024, in *Shot Both Sides v Canada*, 2024 SCC 12, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a declaration that Canada dishonourably breached the TLE provisions of the Blackfoot Treaty, the Blood Tribe being entitled to a reserve 162.5 square miles larger than the reserve currently held. The Court characterized the Crown's conduct as "deplorable," and issued declaratory relief to support reconciliation through negotiation outside the courts.
- F. Canada has historically demonstrated that through dedicated TLE settlement vehicles — including the April 2023 tripartite settlement with five Treaty 8 First Nations in British Columbia — that the prompt resolution of TLE claims outside the Specific Claims process is administratively and fiscally feasible. Canada has not extended these models to other First Nations with comparable outstanding TLE obligations.
- G. AFN Resolutions 09/2020, *Jointly Develop a Fully Independent Specific Claims Process*, 11/2024, *Ensuring Access to Justice for Specific Claims through Policy Reform*, 12/2024, *Urgent Support for the Repatriation of First Nations Lands*, 59/2025, *Strategic Direction on Land Restitution and Compensation*, and 67/2025, *Advancing the Recognition, Implementation, and Enforcement of Pre-1975 Treaties*, direct the AFN to advance independent specific claims resolution, distinctions-based Nation-to-Nation land restitution, and a Cabinet Directive for pre-1975 Treaty implementation. This resolution builds upon those mandates by addressing the specific gap of outstanding TLE claims that cannot be resolved within the federal Specific Claims process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon the Government of Canada, in collaboration with affected First Nations, to establish dedicated negotiation processes with appropriate Cabinet-approved financial mandates and whole-of-government coordination for the expeditious resolution of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claims that fall outside the Specific Claims process, including court-affirmed claims, claims governed by framework agreements, claims exceeding the \$150 million Specific Claims Tribunal cap, and claims for which the remedy sought includes the restitution of land.
2. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to provide its TLE negotiators with multi-year Cabinet-approved financial mandates of sufficient scope to negotiate land restitution and equitable compensation, and to avoid interruption of negotiations due to mandate expiry or renewal.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

3. Direct the AFN to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly at each subsequent Annual General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution, until its purposes have been achieved.
4. Direct the AFN to make reasonable efforts to identify and seek the resources required to support the work mandated by this resolution, in collaboration with affected First Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

41 – 2026
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 42/2026

TITLE: Addressing Tax Implications Relating to Additions to Reserve

SUBJECT: Additions to Reserve

MOVED BY: Chief Calvin Sanderson, Chakastaypasin Band of the Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Byron Louis, Proxy, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, BC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- ii. Article 26(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- iii. Article 26(3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned.
- iv. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to Indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of Indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
- v. Article 28(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

42 – 2026
Page 1 of 3

resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

- vi. Article 28(2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.
- B. For decades, First Nations have called for transformative change to Canada's Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy to address barriers that impede efficient and timely conversion of lands to reserve.
- C. In 2012, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 26/2012, *Additions to Reserve Policy and Process Reform*, mandating the AFN and the Government of Canada to jointly amend the existing ATR Policy to create a more efficient, effective, and transparent process.
- D. The Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples produced a report in 2012 titled *Additions to Reserve: Expediting the Process*, which found that lengthy ATR processing times are costly for First Nations. The report identified municipal tax obligations as a persistent part of this problem, because fee-simple lands remain subject to taxation until designated as reserve lands.
- E. The AFN ATR Regional Dialogues Forum Roll-up Report in 2012 found that costs of excessive processing times have led to some communities selling fee simple lands before they could complete the ATR process.
- F. First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 37/2023, *Returning First Nations Lands through Additions to Reserve Reform*, calling on the Government of Canada to co-develop with First Nations a clear, effective, and transparent ATR process and mandating the AFN to advance First Nations priorities respecting ATRs, including policy and legislative reforms.
- G. In 2024, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's (CIRNAC) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established to remove barriers and co-develop ATR policy reform with First Nations. Following TAC's establishment, the AFN was invited to participate in TAC and to seek a mandate to co-develop ATR reforms that quickly and efficiently creates reserve lands for First Nations.
- H. Throughout 2024, the TAC recommended nine interim changes to the ATR policy to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. These interim changes were approved in December 2024, and aim to improve the existing ATR Policy, but do not significantly expedite the approval of ATR proposals or address outstanding tax implications related to the ATR Process.
- I. In 2025, approximately 860 ATR submissions remained outstanding, despite the Government of Canada committing over \$45 million between 2021 and 2022 to advance ATR reform, reduce backlogs, and fund First Nation-led reform analysis initiatives.
- J. In 2025, CIRNAC released the *Pathways to Additions to Reserve Policy Reform: First Nation Voices in Action*, which provides an overview of the key themes emerging from more than 900 First Nation recommendations. Tax-related recommendations included a review of tax benefits and exemptions for ATR and fee-simple lands, and to establish a framework that would relieve First Nations from municipal, provincial, and federal tax obligations during the ATR process.
- K. Despite the tax-related recommendations, they were not included in the recent nine interim changes to the ATR Policy, which continue to burden First Nations during the ATR process. Without a reimbursement

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

strategy, these costs may severely erode the economic potential of community development initiatives planned for new lands for First Nations across Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to work with the AFN to:
 - a. Review the benefits and tax exemptions of lands held in the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process and fee simple held lands;
 - b. Establish a legislative framework to relieve First Nations from all tax-related obligations throughout the duration of the ATR process; and
 - c. Implement interim measures to temporarily freeze all tax-related obligations for First Nations whose fee simple lands are currently subject to the ATR process until the legislative tax framework is co-developed.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

42 – 2026
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 43/2026

TITLE: Increase and prioritize federal funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

SUBJECT: MMIWG, 2SLGBTQQIA+

MOVED BY: Chief Raymond Powder, Fort McKay First Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Veronica Smith, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, ON

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 22(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.
- ii. Article 39: Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

B. In August 2016, the Government of Canada launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry), resulting in a Final Report in June 2019 that details 231 Calls for Justice. These include:

- i. Call for Justice 1.5: We call upon all governments to immediately take all necessary measures to prevent, investigate, punish, and compensate for violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- ii. Call for Justice 3.7: We call upon all governments to provide continual and accessible healing programs and support for all children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and their family members. Specifically, we call for the permanent establishment of a fund akin to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and related funding. These funds and their administration must be independent from government and must be distinctions based.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

43 – 2026

Page 1 of 2

There must be accessible and equitable allocation of specific monies within the fund for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples.

- C. There has been limited substantive progress in achieving the Calls for Justice, although the Government of Canada launched an MMIWG2S+ horizontal funding initiative in 2021 across various federal departments. The total investment was \$12.9 billion.
- D. The Government of Canada announced a decision in Federal Budget 2025 to make spending reductions across all departments, including \$2 billion cuts to Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- E. Multiple Indigenous organizations have publicly expressed concern that the federal government is now allowing critical time-limited MMIWG2S+ program funding to expire, or “sunset”, because of departmental budget cuts. Funding renewals and sufficient alternate support have not been provided, limiting the impact of local, provincial and national Indigenous organizations working to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People.
- F. Violence continues at an alarming rate in Canada against First Nations, including men and boys, significantly out of proportion to our representation in Canada’s population.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate that the federal government increase and prioritize funding to support MMIWG2S+ programming in Federal Budget 2026 and beyond, in line with the Calls for Justice:
 - a. Funding must be predictable, accessible and long-term, recognizing the ongoing nature of this work and the planning and operational needs of First Nations organizations.
- 2. Direct the AFN to call on the federal government to expand awareness of and support for Missing, Murdered and Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMIEP), as well as grassroots efforts among First Nations to support impacted families and end violence in our home territories by:
 - a. Supporting First Nations-led public education and awareness campaigns.
 - b. Allocating sustained and targeted funding for family support, victim services, community healing, cultural supports, and grassroots initiatives.
 - c. Improving coordination and information-sharing among federal departments, police services, and First Nations governments, while respecting First Nations data sovereignty and privacy rights.
 - d. Supporting First Nations-led safety, prevention, search, outreach, and community response initiatives.
 - e. Publicly reporting on progress, funding allocations, and implementation of MMIEP-related commitments and Calls for Justice.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

43 – 2026
Page 2 of 2

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 44/2026

TITLE: Upholding First Nations Fisheries Rights in Salmon Allocation Policy, and
Opposition to Racist Misinformation Campaigns

SUBJECT: Fisheries

MOVED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Jerry Jack, Mowachaht / Muchalaht First Nation, BC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
- ii. Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- iii. Article 32(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;

B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) was proclaimed on June 21, 2021, and affirms, among other matters, that the Government of Canada is committed to taking effective measures—including legislative, policy and administrative measures—at the national and international level, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration.

C. In keeping with the UNDA, the Government of Canada published the National Action Plan on June 21, 2023, as the main strategy to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

44 – 2026

Page 1 of 3

- D. First Nations hold inherent title and rights, laws, jurisdiction, and responsibilities with respect to fisheries and aquatic resources within their territories, which are protected and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, and arise from the original laws and governance systems of First Nations.
- E. Salmon are of profound cultural, spiritual, economic, and sustenance importance to First Nations who continue to exercise stewardship and governance responsibilities over salmon since time immemorial.
- F. The federal Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy (SAP), first released in 1999 and currently under review by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), establishes the framework and principles used to guide the allocation and management of Pacific salmon harvests among First Nations, recreational, and commercial fisheries.
- G. The SAP review began in 2018 with the aim of ensuring that First Nations fishing rights and allocations are properly recognized and upheld by DFO, including in light of the *Ahousaht et al.* decision and other Section 35 jurisprudence.
- H. The SAP review process has been accompanied by organized misinformation campaigns and public opposition to the recognition and implementation of First Nations fishing rights, including rhetoric that undermines First Nations' title and rights, and jurisdiction, and contributes to racism towards First Nations.
- I. The Supreme Court of Canada has repeatedly affirmed that First Nations fishing rights are constitutionally protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, and that conservation is the first priority in fisheries management, followed by First Nations food, social, ceremonial, and rights-based fisheries.
- J. In Resolution 22/2025, *Implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada's Sparrow Decision*, the First Nations-in-Assembly have called for the protection and restoration of wild salmon, the upholding of First Nations fishing rights and stewardship responsibilities and increased First Nations participation and leadership in salmon governance, management, and conservation initiatives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Fully support the recognition and implementation of First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected fishing rights within the federal Salmon Allocation Policy review process and any future fisheries management and allocation decisions.
- 2. Unequivocally condemn all racist rhetoric, misinformation campaigns, and fearmongering directed at First Nations peoples, communities, and organizations in relation to fisheries resource allocation and the exercise of First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights.
- 3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), in conjunction with other federal agencies, to publicly denounce racist and discriminatory misinformation campaigns targeting First Nations fishing rights and to ensure that future fisheries engagement processes are conducted in a manner that is transparent, respectful, and free from racism and intimidation.
- 4. Direct the AFN to call upon Canada to prioritize First Nations access, allocation, stewardship, and economic participation in salmon fisheries in a manner that supports the continuation of First Nations cultures, intergenerational knowledge transfer, food security, livelihoods, and long-term salmon sustainability for future generations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

5. Direct the AFN to call upon the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to expeditiously review the briefing package prepared by their own department and choose a decision as to the policy proposals contained therein to avoid another fishing season that unjustifiably infringes upon the rights of First Nations.
6. Direct the AFN to call upon DFO to work collaboratively with affected First Nations to co-draft the final Salmon Allocation Policy to uphold their commitments under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

44 – 2026
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 45/2026

TITLE: Support First Nation Managers Health Association Development of National Standards and Curriculum for Indigenous Health Navigators

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Mark Fox, Piapot First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Dr. Stanley Bird, Peguis First Nation, MB

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states that:
- i. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, and to be actively involved in developing and administering health programs affecting them.
 - ii. Article 24(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
 - iii. Article 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- B. First Nations hold inherent and Treaty-protected rights to health, including jurisdiction to design, oversee, and govern health systems, standards, and accountability mechanisms that reflect First Nations priorities and realities.
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action 18–23 focus on health by calling upon governments to recognize and implement Indigenous health-care rights and to address the ongoing inequities in First Nations health outcomes resulting from colonial policies.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

45 – 2026
Page 1 of 2

- D. The First Nations health system landscape is complex and multi-jurisdictional, and there is a demonstrated need for culturally safe, trauma-informed supports, such as Indigenous Health Navigators, to assist First Nations individuals and families in accessing and navigating health services across systems.
- E. Indigenous Health Navigators play a critical role in bridging community-based care and mainstream health systems, improving access to care continuity of care, and culturally appropriate support for First Nations patients and families.
- F. The First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) continues building on its mandate and previous Assembly of First Nations resolutions including Resolution 58/2008, *Competency Framework for First Nations Health Managers*, Resolution 46/2009, *Support for First Nations Health Managers Association*, and Resolution 11/2015, *Support for First Nations Health Managers Association Certified First Nations Health Manager Designation*.
- G. Any national standards, competencies, certifications pathways, or curriculum for Indigenous Health Navigators must developed with First Nations leadership and in a manner that respects First Nations jurisdiction, self-determination, and regional distinctions.
- H. The development of national competencies, standards, certification pathways, and curriculum for Indigenous Health Navigators will strengthen the First Nations health workforce and contribute to improved health outcomes for First Nations.
- I. The development, implementation, and maintenance of national standards and training pathways for Indigenous Health Navigators requires sustained federal investment to ensure equitable access and implementation across First Nations throughout Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Support the First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) in the development of national standards, core competencies, certification pathways, and curriculum for Indigenous Health Navigators.
- 2. Advocate for the sustained and equitable federal funding to support the development, implementation, and ongoing delivery of Indigenous Health Navigator training, certification, and workforce expansion initiatives.
- 3. Support First Nations-led approaches to health workforce development that uphold First Nations jurisdiction, incorporate traditional knowledge, and reflect the diverse needs of First Nations communities both in community and urban settings.
- 4. Encourage collaboration amongst First Nations organizations, health authorities, educational institutions, and governments to advance standardized training pathways for Indigenous Health Navigators.
- 5. Affirm that all initiatives related to Indigenous Health Navigators align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, and First Nations inherent and Treaty rights to health.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

45 – 2026
Page 2 of 2

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 46/2026

TITLE: Support for a National Framework for Women's Health in Canada that Commits to a First Nations Distinction-Based Health Strategy

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Brent Niganobe, Mississauga First Nation, ON

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 8(1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
- ii. Article 8(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
 - (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
 - (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
 - (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
 - (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.
- iii. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

46 – 2026
Page 1 of 3

- iv. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. First Nations across Canada hold an Inherent and Treaty Right to health, recognized and grounded in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, and reflected in Treaties 1 – 11.
- C. Section 3.2 in the Calls for Justice issued by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) calls upon all governments to provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous-centered and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate, and meet the health and wellness needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2-Spirit, Intersex, Queer, and Trans Indigenous People (2SIQTIP).
- D. Women's health outcomes in Canada have consistently lagged due to systemic gaps in research, data, treatment efficacy and access to care. The most recent Hologic Global Women's Health Index shows Canada has remained static and was ranked at 73/143 compared with other countries.
- E. First Nations women in Canada face ongoing, intersecting inequities rooted in colonialism, systemic racism, and gender-based discrimination—resulting in disproportionate harms to their health, safety, and wellbeing.
- F. This health gap is wider for First Nations women, girls, and gender diverse people in Canada, due to unique systemic barriers that limit access to timely care in our communities. The lack of health and wellness services within First Nations communities continues to force First Nations women, girls, and gender diverse people to relocate to access care. Governments must ensure that health and wellness services are available and accessible within First Nations communities and wherever First Nations women, girls, and gender diverse people reside.
- G. On March 26, 2026, Bill S-243 *An Act to establish a national framework for women's health in Canada*, completed its Second Reading and was referred to Committee in the Senate of Canada. Bill S-243 would establish a legislated national framework to address long-standing gaps in women's health.
- H. Bill S-243 is a timely opportunity to advance First Nations women and gender diverse peoples' health by creating a legal obligation to establish a national framework on women's health and fostering inter-jurisdictional collaboration and accountability measures that are essential to addressing gaps in the health of First Nations women and gender diverse peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to publicly support, in principle, Bill S-243, *An Act to Establish a National Framework for Women's Health in Canada*, with amendments to ensure a distinction-based approach to address health inequities experienced by First Nations women and gender diverse people.
2. Direct the AFN to advocate for additional amendments to Bill S-243 that address the unique barriers for First Nations women and gender diverse people and ensure that the development and implementation of the national framework are led by First Nations women, gender diverse peoples and women's health experts.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

46 – 2026
Page 2 of 3

3. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to prioritize Bill S-243 in the parliamentary process.
4. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to ensure accountability for recognizing and implementing the right of First Nations to the highest attainable standard of health, including distinctions-based measurable targets, transparent reporting, and First Nations-led evaluation that affirms First Nations data sovereignty.
5. Direct the AFN to call on the Minister of Health to work collaboratively with the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, in partnership with First Nations, to develop and implement a First Nations-specific national Framework for Women's Health that is grounded in First Nations rights, self-determination, and the leadership of First Nations women and gender diverse peoples.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

46 – 2026
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 47/2026

TITLE: **Etsy Ban on Fur Products**

SUBJECT: Economic Development

MOVED BY: Chief Jenny Brake, Qalipu First Nation, NL

SECONDED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 11(1). Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
- ii. Article 20(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
- iii. Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- iv. Article 26(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- v. Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
- vi. Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

47 – 2026

Page 1 of 2

- B. On April 2, 2026, the online retail platform, Etsy, announced that it will prohibit the sale of “products made from or containing natural fur from animals killed primarily for their pelts, regardless of age or origin. This includes products like raw pelts, finished garments, and accessories made with real fur from animals such as mink, fox, and rabbit.” This new policy will come into effect on August 11, 2026.
- C. This change was framed as an update to Etsy’s “biodiversity policy”. Given the particular focus on fur products, impacts of this ban will be felt acutely by First Nations artisans on the platform.
- D. Etsy’s policies were previously updated in 2017 to ban the sale of seal products on their platform, which negatively impacted First Nations and Inuit artisans working with sealskin in Canada.
- E. Etsy’s new policy has already been opposed by the International Fur Federation, the Fur Institute of Canada, the Fur Takers of America, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- F. The Legislative Assembly of the Yukon unanimously passed a motion on April 22, 2026 that “THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to communicate to the e-commerce platform Etsy that: (1) sustainable trapping conducted using modern, humane methods is an evidence-based wildlife management practice; (2) fur harvesting and craftsmanship are part of the rich cultural heritage of Yukon First Nations; and (3) bans on fur products cause harm to Yukon trappers and artisans who rely on this vital source of income.”
- G. This resolution aligns with previous AFN Resolutions passed by First Nation-in-Assembly, including:
 - i. AFN Resolution 71/2025 *European Union Ban on Seal Products*, which directed the AFN to engage with the European Commission advocate for the full cessation of the European Commission’s ban on seal products from Canada; and
 - ii. AFN Resolution 48/2021 *Traditional Occupations and Traditional Economies* which directed the AFN to advocate for the elimination of all forms of discrimination faced by Indigenous peoples exercising traditional occupations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Call on Etsy to reverse their decision to ban fur from their platform.
- 2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to write a letter calling on Etsy to reverse their decision to amend their Animal Products Policy to ban the sale of products made of natural fur.
- 3. Call on the AFN to advocate for the recognition, protection, and advancement of First Nations traditional occupations and traditional use of resources in contemporary markets, consistent with section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

47 – 2026
Page 2 of 2

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 48/2026

TITLE: Recognition of Inherent First Nations' Law-Making Jurisdiction

SUBJECT: Justice

MOVED BY: Chief Brent Niganobe, Mississauga First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Tim Ominika, Wiikwemkoong First Nation, ON

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) states that:
- i. Preamble: The Government of Canada rejects all forms of colonialism;
 - ii. Preamble: The declaration emphasizes the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples of the world;
 - iii. Preamble: The Government of Canada recognizes that all relations with Indigenous peoples must be based on the recognition and implementation of the inherent right to self-determination, including the right of self-government;
 - iv. Preamble: The Government of Canada is committed to exploring, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, measures related to monitoring, oversight, recourse or remedy or other accountability measures that will contribute to the achievement of those objectives;
- B. First Nations have the inherent right to self-determination, including the inherent right and jurisdiction to pass their own laws under their own inherent powers;
- C. The by-law provisions of the *Indian Act* are colonial, offensive, inadequate, and inconsistent with the UNDA, because, among other failings, they do not recognize inherent jurisdiction and instead treat First Nations' jurisdiction as being delegated from federal crown jurisdiction.
- D. These provisions must be replaced as soon as possible with alternatives that recognize inherent First Nations' law-making jurisdiction, including recognition in new federal legislation.
- E. First Nations law-making jurisdiction is important to:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

48 – 2026

Page 1 of 2

- i. Improve recognition of First Nations' inherent jurisdiction for all First Nations seeking this;
- ii. Facilitate the enforcement of First Nations' inherent laws in all courts, where desired by a First Nation;
- iii. Improve compliance with the UNDRIP Act;
- iv. Facilitate and encourage the enactment of inherent First Nations' laws; and
- v. Help to address the important challenges and opportunities that are the subject of First Nations' inherent laws

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Government of Canada to:
 - a. Enact a new law that supplants the by-law provisions in the *Indian Act*, recognizes First Nations' inherent law-making jurisdiction, and secures recognition and enforcement of inherent laws by Canadian courts;
 - b. Enact the law within one year, with reviews occurring at least every three years on the scope of jurisdiction recognized by the law and other relevant matters;
 - c. At least include all subject areas covered by the *Indian Act* by-law provisions in the first version of the law that is enacted;
 - d. Adopt an approach that maintains full First Nation control over First Nation law-making, without creating burdens or delays;
 - e. Include a strong non-derogation clause that ensures no First Nations' rights are diminished by the new law; and
 - f. Ensure this new law is entirely without prejudice to efforts of First Nations to secure recognition of inherent rights and jurisdiction through other means, such as self-government agreements.
2. Note that this Resolution is without prejudice to any initiatives or work being undertaken by First Nations or First Nations organizations on this issue or related issues and is without prejudice to the inherent and Treaty rights of all First Nations across Canada.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

48 – 2026
Page 2 of 2

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 49/2026

TITLE: Support for the Funding and Implementation of the *Honouring our Strengths Framework, 2nd Edition*

SUBJECT: Health, Education

MOVED BY: Chief Michael Yellowback, Manto Sipi Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Tamara Young, Pictou Landing First Nations, NS

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- iii. Article 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action state that:

- i. 18: We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the healthcare rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

49 – 2026
Page 1 of 3

- C. The Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) address the ongoing crisis of violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit/LGBTQQIA persons across Canada, including calls “upon all governments”:
- i. [7.1]: We call upon all governments and health service providers to recognize that Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, including 2SLGBTQQIA people – are the experts in caring for and healing themselves, and that health and wellness services are most effective when they are designed and delivered by the Indigenous Peoples they are supposed to serve, in a manner consistent with and grounded in the practices, world views, cultures, languages, and values of the diverse Inuit, Métis, and First Nations communities they serve.
- D. Supported by Resolution 60/2010, *Ratification of Renewed Framework for the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program and Youth Solvent Addiction Program*, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), along with Health Canada and the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (now Thunderbird Partnership Foundation), released *Honouring our Strengths (HOS): A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations People in Canada* in 2011.
- E. AFN Resolution 60/2023, *Measures to Address the Impacts of the Opioid Crisis*, directs the AFN to call on Indigenous Services Canada to ensure that enhanced, flexible funding be accessible to all First Nations who wish to implement the HOS Framework and to work with relevant First Nations Mental Wellness organizations that would help them address their substance use needs.
- F. Since its release in 2011, the HOS Framework has shifted the focus of substance use support from deficits to strengths; emphasized the need for culture-as-foundation community-based care; made clear the importance of Indigenous Knowledge in healing; and supported the integration of mental wellness and substance use care.
- G. The substance use health landscape has changed dramatically since 2011. Substance use has moved from prescription drugs to an unregulated and highly toxic drug supply, contaminated with substances such as the potent opioid, fentanyl.
- H. Opioids and other contaminated drugs, such as methamphetamine and benzodiazepines, are killing and harming First Nations at an alarming rate. For example, opioid-related deaths for First Nations in Ontario tripled between 2019 and 2022; in 2022, in Ontario, First Nations were dying at a rate nine times higher than for non-First Nations; and in British Columbia (BC), the death rate for First Nations was 6.7 times higher than for other BC residents – these are the largest gaps since the public health emergency was declared in 2016.
- I. First Nations across Canada continue to experience disproportionate rates of toxic drug poisonings, overdose deaths, and substance use related harms. The worsening drug crisis drove development of the HOS Framework 2nd edition, including: a greater understanding of complex trauma and the role it plays in substance use; making the language used more contemporary and less stigmatizing; the use of the most recent knowledge and evidence, particularly in harm reduction and pharmacological approaches; addressing anti-Indigenous racism; and shining a light on the need for housing and infrastructure along with wrap-around services that integrate the social determinants of health.
- J. Thunderbird Partnership Foundation has called on the government to modernize the current funding formula and implement fair and equitable salaries for addictions workers of the National Native Alcohol and Drug

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

Abuse Program, the National Youth Solvent Abuse Program and community-based substance use programs. The Government has not responded to this call. First Nations mental wellness and substance use health workers face significant wage disparities, earning nearly 45% less than their provincial counterparts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada, in partnership with First Nations, to implement a sustainable and equitable funding that advances the full implementation of Honoring Our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Support Wellness and Substance Use Health Among First Nations People in Canada (2nd Edition) (Honouring Our Strengths Framework), including the following:
 - a. Investments in workforce development, community-based programming, infrastructure, and wrap-around support, and
 - b. Equitable compensation and wage parity with comparable provincial and territorial substance use health positions for First Nations employees to advances equity in services and programs.
2. Support in principle the Honouring Our Strengths Framework (2nd Edition) as a policy framework to support an expanded work continuum of care and equitable funding for the National Native Alcohol and Drug Program, the National Youth Solvent Abuse Program Treatment Centers, and First Nations community-based programming.
3. Direct the AFN to advocate to federal, provincial, and territorial governments to support the full implementation of *Honouring Our Strengths Framework* (2nd edition).
4. Direct the AFN to call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to adequately resource First Nations governments, Tribal Councils and other related organizations to provide a full continuum of wellness and substance use care in First Nations communities, ensuring access to culturally safe and effective services for community members.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

49 – 2026
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 50/2026

TITLE: Call to Action to Address Chronic Kidney Disease in First Nations

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Tim Ominika, Wiikwemkoong First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Patsy Corbiere, Aundeck Omni Kaning, ON

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People states:
- i. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
 - iii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. The World Health Organization (WHO) has made Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) a top priority, recognizing it as one of the world's fastest-growing health challenges affecting roughly 850 million people globally.
- C. The Kidney Foundation of Canada reported in March 2026 that Indigenous adults screened had a chronic kidney disease (CKD) prevalence of 25.5%, and the researchers concluded this represented "a 2-fold higher prevalence of CKD in Indigenous Canadians in comparison to the general population."

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

50 – 2026
Page 1 of 2

- D. The Kidney Foundation also linked that other national statistics echo that Indigenous populations, including First Nations, experience higher rates of CKD (including pediatric CKD) compared to the general population, in the context of higher burdens of diabetes, obesity, and other risk factors.
- E. The Ontario Renal Network (now part of Ontario Health) focuses heavily on addressing disproportionate kidney disease rates in First Nations communities. Key 2026 updates and initiatives prioritize culturally safe care, early screening, and bringing care closer to home to combat long travel distances.
- F. The Ontario Aboriginal Cancer Strategy III, 2019, concluded that; broader determinants such as poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to healthy foods and physical activity contribute to increased CKD risk, and further; that addressing CKD requires interventions beyond individual behavior change, targeting community and policy levels.
- G. First Nations data sovereignty and stewardship of health information is essential to ensuring that CKD related data, research, monitoring, and evaluation activities respect First Nations rights, priorities, and decision-making authority.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for the development and implementation of a First Nations-led National Chronic Kidney Disease Strategy that advances prevention, early detection, screening, treatment, patient education, and equitable access to culturally safe renal care for First Nations.
- 2. Direct the AFN to call upon Indigenous Services Canada, including the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, Health Canada, and other relevant federal departments to fulfill their fiduciary and Treaty obligations by increasing sustainable investments in chronic kidney disease prevention, screening, treatment, medical transportation supports, dialysis services, specialist care, patient navigation, and health infrastructure for First Nations.
- 3. Direct the AFN and partners to convene a national dialogue with First Nations, First Nations organizations, Kidney Foundations, health experts, researchers, governments, philanthropic organizations, and other potential partners to identify evidence-based approaches that improve chronic kidney disease outcomes while ensuring First Nations leadership and decision-making authority remain central to all initiatives, subject to available resources/funding and capacity.
- 4. Direct the AFN to call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work collaboratively with First Nations to establish measurable targets and reporting mechanisms related to chronic kidney disease prevention, screening rates, access to treatment, patient outcomes, and quality of life indicators.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

50 – 2026
Page 2 of 2

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 51/2026

TITLE: **Opposition to Bill C-21 and Rejection of Metis Illegitimate Rights Assertions**

SUBJECT: Justice and Treaties

MOVED BY: Simon Smith, Proxy, Tseycum Indian Band, BC

SECONDED BY: Jessica Boyer Bennett, Proxy, Ojibways of Batchewana First Nation, ON

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A.** The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 26:
 - a. (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
 - b. (2) Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
 - c. (3) States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned.
- B.** First Nations are rights holders who hold inherent and Treaty rights set out in our own governance and legal systems, as well as constitutionally protected rights under Section 35 and 25 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. First Nations alone interpret and describe our Inherent rights through our laws and legal traditions, customary law, and international law. In practice, this means that First Nations rights cannot be undermined by colonial interpretations of these rights.
- C.** The Article of the UN Declaration cited above apply to assertions of Métis Indigenous rights. Canada's efforts to give effect to these Articles in the context of Métis rights claims and related agreements must rest on the

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

51 – 2026

Page 1 of 4

foundation of, and be entirely consist with, the legal test for Métis right as set out by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Powley* and the necessary historical facts required by the Powley test. The AFN General Assembly does not oppose Canada's recognition of Métis rights on this Basis.

- D. In 2003, the *R v. Powley* case resulted in the Supreme Court of Canada establishing a test to determine Métis Aboriginal rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. It requires a claimant to prove membership in a historic Métis community that continued into a contemporary community with a practice integral to that community's culture that existed prior to colonial control. The test also examines if the right was extinguished and if a current infringement is justified.
- E. Bill C-21, *An Act to give effect to the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, was introduced into the House of Commons on Thursday, February 12, 2026, and is currently at second reading. The Bill provides for the implementation of a self-government treaty between Canada and the Red River Métis in Manitoba.
- F. While distinct from Bill C-53, *An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, which proposed a broader framework for the recognition of Métis governments and future treaty-making, Bill C-21 does not clearly define how future developments arising from such agreements may be negotiated between Red River Métis and the Crown. This, in turn, could have adverse impacts on First Nations rights and interests. Future Métis treaties could over time, raise questions regarding land, resources, and harvesting rights where claims overlap, and may give rise to potential conflicts or impacts on First Nations section 35 rights. Bill C-21 does not clearly establish mechanisms to address overlapping First Nations rights, jurisdiction, and interests are addressed.
- G. In Manitoba, the Crown recognizes Numbered Treaty territories (Treaties 1-5), alongside the Manitoba Métis Federation as the representative of the Red River Métis. However, there is no clear, transparent, or rights-based process to identify, prioritize, and reconcile the rights holders in the context of Aboriginal Title, resources, and economic participation. The lack of clear definitions and reconciliation of rights risks Crown decision-making infringing upon First Nations' constitutionally protected rights, creating conflict, undermining the honour of the Crown, and perpetuating the infringement and displacement of First Nations from their territories.
- H. The recognition and implementation of First Nations rights must be guided by a clear distinctions-based approach that respects the unique legal, historical, and constitutional foundations of different First Nations rights holders, and without such a protocol, there is a significant risk of the misapplication of distinct rights and the infringement of First Nations inherent and Treaty rights.
- I. The AFN has several resolutions concerning Bill C-21, including:
 - a. Resolution 61/2025, *Clarifying Approaches to Métis Rights in First Nations' Territories*;
 - b. Resolution 55/2024, *Continued Rejection and Denouncement of Métis Illegitimate Rights Assertions*;
 - c. Resolution 81/2023, *Urgent Protection of First Nations Inherent and Treaty Rights from Ongoing Illegitimate Rights Assertions*;
 - d. Resolution 44/2023, *Protect First Nations Rights and Interests from Unfounded Métis Rights*.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse

- J. There have been an increased number of challenges in rights recognition between First Nations and the Métis. First Nations, often asserting historical and territorial claims, have taken legal recourse to address issues related to land use, resource management, and cultural heritage. The legal disputes arise from disputed overlapping historical and geographical connections, prompting First Nations to seek clarity and recognition within Canada's legal framework.
- K. Canada has committed to addressing these fundamental challenges through the following Action Plan Measures (APMs) of the *United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan:
- a. APM #24 (Shared Priority), which commits the Government of Canada to "remove and address jointly identified barriers to settlement and co-develop approaches for the implementation of the right to self-determination through treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, as well as through new policies and legislative mechanisms.
 - b. APM #31 (Shared Priority), which commits the Government of Canada to "work in collaboration with Indigenous partners to identify opportunities to reform and strengthen the foundational elements that support rights-based negotiations and approaches."
- L. To date, Canada has not meaningfully implemented these commitments.
- M. The lack of a process to resolve such conflicts amounts to the Government of Canada offloading its responsibilities onto First Nations. First Nations do not have sufficient financial resources to engage in litigation to protect their rights and interest. Furthermore, the offloading of the Government of Canada's responsibilities onto First Nations has the potential to create a range of adverse effects and challenges.
- N. National, regional, and First Nations consultation processes are needed to develop respectful processes to recognize Inherent rights and jurisdiction while ensuring adequate safeguards to address overlapping claims and infringement of First Nations rights. Canada must establish fair, open, and timely mechanisms to secure recognition of First Nations' inherent and Treaty rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to publicly oppose Bill C-21, *An Act to give effect to the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, which lacks clarity on defining the rights holders in the context of Aboriginal Title, resource, and economic participant risks. It creates a risk that Crown-decision making and future Métis agreements may infringe upon First Nations' constitutionally protected rights.
2. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to conduct meaningful and adequate consultation with First Nations as is required under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, prior to enacting laws that impact First Nations inherent, Constitutional and Treaty rights.
3. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to develop, in full partnership with First Nations, a clear distinctions-based approach in all legislation, policy, and agreements impacting Indigenous rights, to ensure that the unique legal, historical, and constitutional foundations of First Nations inherent and Treaty rights are recognized, respected, to prevent the misapplication of rights with those of other Indigenous groups.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

51 – 2026
Page 3 of 4

4. Direct the AFN, at the request of and in collaboration with the First Nations of Treaties 1-5, and subject to available capacity and resources, to support their efforts to address the impacts of Bill C-21, including:
- a. Advocate for the Government of Canada to work with First Nations to identify and establish long-term and stable funding mechanisms, inclusive of First Nations laws and legal orders, and consistent with the Honour of the Crown, to facilitate nation-to-nation discussions on the implementation of First Nations Inherent Treaty rights.
 - b. Engage with Bill C-21 through parliamentary intervention and advocacy to ensure First Nations Inherent, Treaty, and Section 35 rights are upheld and respected.
 - c. Support First Nations rights holders, where requested and appropriate, in addressing and responding to disputed or overlapping rights assertions within their territories, including through political, legislative, legal interventions, information sharing and coordination and analysis

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Woodhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

51 – 2026
Page 4 of 4

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 52/2026

TITLE: Filling Vacancies at the Specific Claims Tribunal

SUBJECT: Lands, Claims

MOVED BY: Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Lisa Robinson, Wolf Lake First Nation, QC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 8(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
 - (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
- ii. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
- iii. Article 28(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

B. Historical actions illegally undertaken by colonial governments have resulted in the dispossession of First Nations, including the illegal alienation of their lands, the creation of and subsequent failure to protect Indian

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

52 – 2026
Page 1 of 3

reserves, villages and fishing areas, the systematic denial of rights to fish and access water, and the illegal disruption and removal of sacred sites and grave sites.

- C. The federal specific claims process is one of the few mechanisms available for First Nations to exercise their right to redress for historical breaches of lawful obligations by the Crown.
- D. The Specific Claims Tribunal (Tribunal), established on October 16, 2008, is an integral component of Canada's specific claims policy (Justice At Last), and is the only independent adjudicative body available to First Nations not subject to statutes of limitations.
- E. First Nations regard the Tribunal's independence, authority to make final and binding decisions, and legislated timelines ensuring timely access to independent adjudication as fundamental to its legitimacy and effectiveness.
- F. The *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* (SCTA) stipulates that the Tribunal consist of a roster of superior court judges appointed by the Governor in Council, of which the maximum may be six full-time and/or part-time members. Section 7 of the SCTA establishes that each member, including the Chairperson, shall be appointed for a term not exceeding five years and each member is eligible to be reappointed for one further term. The Chairperson supervises and directs the work of the Tribunal, including allocation of work and assigning hearings to members.
- G. Justice Victoria Chiappetta was appointed as a full-time member of the Tribunal in June 2019 for a five-year term and appointed Tribunal Chairperson on December 11, 2020 (five-year term). Justice Chiappetta's appointment as Chair is not being renewed for a second term due to a technical interpretation of the SCTA around term limits.
- H. Justice Chiappetta was the sole full-time member of the Tribunal and carried approximately 50 percent of Tribunal cases. Her cases will likely be stayed or adjourned until a new Chair is appointed, a process which could take over a year due to backlogs in provincial superior courts. Part-time members account for only about 10 percent of cases at the Tribunal.
- I. Currently, the Tribunal has no formally appointed Chair and no full-time member. Its current membership consists of three part-time members: Justice Ducharme (ON), whose term expired on April 13, and has yet to be renewed for a second term; Justice Roy (NB) whose term expires next year; and Justice MacDonald (BC), who the Tribunal website identifies as acting Chair.
- J. Between January 1 and July 7, 2026, 15 claims were filed with the Tribunal, compared with nine during all of 2025, demonstrating First Nations' increasing reliance on the Tribunal for independent adjudication and contributing to the Tribunal's already heavy workload.
- K. The Tribunal has never operated with its legislated full complement of members, despite its heavy volume of cases and contrary to the consistent recommendations made by former Chair, Justice Harry Slade and First Nations.
- L. The specific claims process is already rife with unreasonable delay, particularly in relation to negotiations. The Tribunal is supposed to serve as a stopgap if negotiations stall or if a First Nation experiences undue delay. Without a full-time Chairperson and no full-time members, the Tribunal becomes another instrument of delay in the resolution of First Nations claims, creating a further barrier to their right to redress under the UN Declaration.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

52 – 2026
Page 2 of 3

- M.** The federal government's failure to prevent disruption of cases before the Tribunal or ensure it has enough judges to fulfill its legislative mandate is another example of this government's shifting priorities, away from redress and reconciliation to economic development, at the expense of justice, and resulting in precarity for First Nations seeking resolution of their claim.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1.** Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to take immediate steps to appoint a Specific Claims Tribunal Chairperson and fill Tribunal member vacancies so that cases currently before the Tribunal and future cases may proceed without undue delay and disruption.
- 2.** Direct the AFN to send an open letter within three months to the Ministers of Justice and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs calling on the Government of Canada to appoint a Tribunal Chairperson and fill Tribunal member vacancies.
- 3.** Direct the AFN to make efforts to engage and collaborate with likeminded organizations, including the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group (BCSCWG), the Indigenous Bar Association, and the Canadian Bar Association, to highlight the urgency of this issue and advance advocacy efforts to ensure that Tribunal member vacancies are filled.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chiselhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

52 – 2026
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 53/2026

TITLE: Upholding Obligations and Commitments on Specific Claims

SUBJECT: Lands, Claims

MOVED BY: Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Lisa Robinson, Wolf Lake First Nation, QC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 8(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - a. Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
 - b. Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
- ii. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
- iii. Article 28(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
- iv. Article 28(2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Chuxelhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

53 – 2026

Page 1 of 4

- B. Historical actions illegally undertaken by the colonial governments have resulted in the dispossession of First Nations, including the illegal alienation of their lands, the failure to safeguard traditional territories and resources, the systematic denial of traditional harvesting rights, and the illegal disruption and removal of sacred sites and grave sites.
- C. These historical and ongoing losses are the result of false, racist premises such as *terra nullius* and the doctrines of discovery, and denial which provided colonial governments justification for alienating land through the Western notion of private land, and organized systems of pre-emption and land grants to accelerate non-Indigenous settlement on Indigenous territories. These premises continued later through systems of land alienation legalized and exploited under the *Indian Act* – often in clear violation of the minimal protections contained in colonial or federal law. These acts of land dispossession ignored Indigenous laws, protocols, and systems of governance.
- D. The federal specific claims process is one of the few mechanisms available for First Nations to exercise their right to redress for historical breaches of lawful obligations by the Crown. Since its inception, the specific claims process has been plagued by delays, barriers, and institutionalized conflict of interest.
- E. Since the election of the Liberal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney in April 2025, the Government of Canada has taken concrete measures that indicate it is retreating from its lawful obligations and public commitments to First Nations. These actions raise concerns about the Government of Canada's commitment to resolving historical claims and reforming the specific claims process in a manner consistent with the UN Declaration.
- F. Recent shifts by the Government of Canada away from specific claims resolution have included:
- i. Abandoned joint reform work to co-develop a fully Independent Specific Claims Resolution Centre grounded in the UN Declaration and that enacts Indigenous laws, contrary to the commitments made in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan;
 - ii. Exacerbated the specific claims research funding crisis by cutting the national envelope from \$12 million to \$8 million, while First Nations funding requests have grown from \$35 million to \$42.2 million, prompting Canada to defund valid stages of the process and contemplate ways to deny funding to new claims and preliminary research stages;
 - iii. Creating barriers in negotiations through prolonged delays, inconsistent mandates, reduced funding, dismissing First Nations experts, issuing take-it-or-leave-it offers, lack of transparent communication with First Nations and their legal counsel, and underperformance of federal negotiators;
 - iv. Cancelling the expedited resolution framework for agricultural benefits arising from broken treaty promises, delaying settlement of these claims;
 - v. Neglecting vacancies in the Specific Claims Tribunal to meet demanding caseloads, jeopardizing First Nations' timely access to the adjudication of their claims; and
 - vi. Failing to engage in clear, open, and transparent communication with First Nations and their representative organizations regarding the future of reform work and the functionality, integrity, robustness, and sustainability of the specific claims process overall.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

53 – 2026
Page 2 of 4

- G. The federal government has made “economic reconciliation” with First Nations the cornerstone of the Crown-First Nations relationship to facilitate the One Canadian Economy major projects agenda. This agenda emphasizes accelerated infrastructure and industrial development on First Nations lands while minimizing federal obligations and rights-based commitments to resolve First Nations historical claims.
- H. Section 35(3) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 provides that “for greater certainty, treaty rights within the meaning of section 35(1) include rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.”
- I. The plain and purposive reading of section 35(3) supports the position that First Nations engaged in Treaty-based specific claims processes hold constitutionally protected land rights, inclusive of the acquisition of lands and to jurisdiction and administration over such lands, consistent with the honour of the Crown and the broad remedial purposes of section 35. Despite this constitutional foundation, Canada has interpreted section 35(3) as applying exclusively to Comprehensive Claims and Modern Treaty processes. This interpretation denies First Nations engaged in specific claims the full recognition and protection of their section 35(3) rights, including rights to land acquisition and governance over lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to take immediate action to uphold its obligations and public commitments to First Nations by:
 - a. reactivating joint work to co-develop an Independent Specific Claims Resolution Centre that fully enacts First Nations laws;
 - b. addressing the crisis in specific claims research funding by providing an emergency supplement to the 2026-27 funding envelope to ensure all First Nations can research and develop their claims, regardless of research stage or mechanism, and working with First Nations to co-develop a fair, equitable, and sustainable funding model;
 - c. removing barriers to negotiations;
 - d. reinstating the expedited resolution framework for agricultural benefits claims;
 - e. prioritizing the provision of requested funding data and clear, transparent communication about the status of the process overall
- 2. Direct the AFN to send an open letter to the Prime Minister, and Ministers of Justice and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs within the next three months calling on Canada to uphold its legal obligations and public commitments regarding specific claims, in alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) and the honour of the Crown.
- 3. Direct the AFN to take immediate steps to call on the Government of Canada to reactivate the joint work to co-develop an Independent Specific Claims Resolution Centre that fully enacts First Nations laws and to report back to First Nations-in-Assembly on these steps at the next Assembly.
- 4. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to reform the Specific Claims Policy to fully recognize and implement the section 35(3) rights of First Nations engaged in specific claims processes, including the

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

53 – 2026
Page 3 of 4

acquisition of lands and jurisdiction and administration over such lands, with the full constitutional recognition and protection.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

53 – 2026
Page 4 of 4

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 54/2026

TITLE: Supporting the Development of Independent Indigenous Sport Advocacy and Accountability Mechanisms

SUBJECT: Sports and Recreation

MOVED BY: Chief Zachary Whitecap, Red Earth Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Edwin Ananas, Beady's & Okemasis First Nation, SK

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- ii. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
- iii. Article 22(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.
- iv. Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

B. First Nations athletes, families, coaches, officials, and community members continue to experience racism, discrimination, harassment, abuse, retaliation, and exclusion within sport systems across Canada;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cherelhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

54 – 2026
Page 1 of 3

- C. Existing sport complaint processes often rely heavily on internal reviews, self-investigation, and systems reviewing themselves, which can undermine trust, transparency, accountability, and confidence in the complaint process;
- D. First Nations have Inherent and enduring rights and responsibilities, affirmed through Treaty, to protect the well-being, safety, dignity, and future of their people, including children and youth participating in sport and recreation;
- E. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action 87 through 91 call upon governments, sport organizations, and Canadians to eliminate racism and barriers faced by Indigenous Peoples in sport and to create culturally safe sporting environments;
- F. Recent reports, investigations, and public discussions across Canada have highlighted ongoing concerns regarding athlete safety, abuse, racism, discrimination, and accountability within sport systems demonstrating the need for independent and culturally appropriate oversight mechanisms;
- G. First Nations athletes, particularly children and youth, require accessible, trauma-informed, culturally grounded, and independent mechanisms to raise concerns without fear of retaliation;
- H. Meaningful accountability in sport cannot exist without independent oversight developed through Indigenous governance and protected from interference by sport organizations, governing bodies, or institutions being reviewed;
- I. Indigenous Peoples have the right to participate fully and safely in sport and recreation free from racism, discrimination, harassment, abuse, retaliation, and exclusion; and
- J. There is a need to explore Indigenous-led approaches to sport advocacy, accountability, and athlete safety that are grounded in Indigenous laws, governance systems, Treaty relationships, and the principles of the UN Declaration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support the development of options for potential establishment of an independent First Nations-led sport advocacy and accountability mechanisms that serve First Nations athletes, families, coaches, and communities across Canada.
- 2. Direct the AFN to engage with First Nations, Indigenous sport organizations, federal and provincial governments, and other partners to assess the feasibility and support the development of First Nations-led sport accountability and advocacy mechanisms.
- 3. Direct the AFN to advocate for funding to undertake the First Nations-led research, engagement, and planning required to examine governance models, authorities, scope, accountability mechanisms, and best practices for First Nations-led sport advocacy systems grounded in Treaty relationships, First Nations governance and legal traditions, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
- 4. Direct the AFN to advocate to all Canadian governments to ensure that culturally safe, trauma-informed, independent complaint and review mechanisms for First Nations athletes, youth, families, coaches, and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

54 – 2026
Page 2 of 3

communities who experience racism, discrimination, harassment, abuse, retaliation, or exclusion are embedded within all sport systems.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1st day of September, 2026 in Calgary, Alberta

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

54 – 2026
Page 3 of 3