

Assembly of First Nations

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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.

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- 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.

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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.

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