

Assembly of First Nations

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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.

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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.

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45 – 2026
Page 2 of 2