



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
JULY 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON-TIME DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

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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

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 (CTA) 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.
- 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:

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- 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.

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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 02 / 2026

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TITLE:	Establishment of an International Treaty House
SUBJECT:	Justice, Treaty, Governance
MOVED BY:	Chief Larry Ahenakew, Ahtahkaloop First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Raymon Harris, Witchehan Lake First Nation, SK

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 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Article 37(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

B. Treaties are among the most significant legal and diplomatic instruments used by sovereign nations to establish obligations, define relationships, and uphold commitments on matters of international importance, including peace, cooperation, land, and shared responsibilities.

C. Treaty Nations across Turtle Island continue to face challenges in achieving full, effective, and equitable participation in Treaty implementation, monitoring, and advocacy, due in part to the absence of a centralized, globally recognized institution dedicated to Treaty rights, education, coordination, and international diplomacy.

D. The lack of a dedicated international Treaty body has hindered collaboration and knowledge-sharing among Treaty Nations and between First Nations and international governments, resulting in gaps in compliance, enforcement, and visibility of Treaty issues worldwide.

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- E. First Nations require institutions with the capacity to serve as central global hubs for Treaties, Treaty-related information, best practices, governance supports, education, and international advocacy – fully aligned with the principles of nation-to-nation relationships and international legal standards.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for the establishment of an International Treaty House—a global centre dedicated to advancing, promoting, and safeguarding Treaties and Treaty Nations—and to seek federal support through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and other appropriate departments, as a mechanism to strengthen nation-to-nation relationships and advance international Treaty obligations.
2. Call upon the AFN to advocate for funding and financial support for the development and implementation of an International Treaty House. This includes including federal, international, philanthropic, and institutional partnerships, to ensure sustainable funding for the development and long-term operation of the International Treaty House.
3. Subject to secured funding, available resources and capacity, direct the AFN, in collaboration with Treaty First Nations across all regions, international partners, academic institutions, and legal experts, to develop the governance structure, mandate, and operational plan for the International Treaty House.
4. Direct the AFN to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly at future Assemblies on progress, findings, and proposed next steps.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #03/2026

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TITLE:	Develop Legal Options to Address Underfunding of Education for First Nations
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Michael Starr, Star Blanket Cree Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Erica Beaudin, Cowessess First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - ii. Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
- B. Education is a fundamental human right. For First Nations, this right is uniquely situated within a framework of Inherent Rights that are constitutionally protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- C. First Nations have Inherent and Treaty rights regarding education, and the Government of Canada must uphold and honour the inherent authority of First Nations to exercise control over their education.
- D. For generations, the Government of Canada has systematically and chronically underfunded First Nations education, resulting in persistent inequities in K–12 education, post-secondary supports, educational infrastructure, special education services, and culturally appropriate programming.
- E. National studies, including reports of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, the Parliamentary Budget Officer, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, have repeatedly documented significant funding gaps between First Nations education systems and those of provincial and territorial jurisdictions.
- F. These funding gaps have resulted in harmful, long-term impacts on First Nations learners, including lower graduation rates, reduced post-secondary participation, limited access to skilled-trade and language programs, and broader socio-economic disadvantages that deepen intergenerational inequality.
- G. First Nations across Canada continue to call for stable, predictable, needs-based, and equitable education funding that meets actual costs, reflects population growth, supports immersion and land-based learning, and addresses historical inequities accumulated over decades.
- H. Strategic, coordinated legal action may provide a viable path to compel the Crown to remedy ongoing discrimination, including through avenues such as the Federal Court, appellate courts, or the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, consistent with successful precedents such as child-welfare litigation.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to assess potential legal options to address the historic and ongoing underfunding of First Nations education, including Charter, Treaty, and Canadian Human Rights Act avenues, in engagement with First Nations leadership as appropriate and subject to available capacity and resources.
2. Direct the AFN to undertake a preliminary assessment of potential legal and human-rights avenues to address the underfunding of First Nations education, including the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and Federal Court, and to identify key feasibility considerations, legal risks, and possible remedies.
3. Call upon the AFN to ensure that legal strategies reflect the needs and priorities of First Nations from coast to coast to coast.
4. Affirm that nothing in this resolution is meant or shall be interpreted to diminish, limit, impact or supersede the ability of any First Nation to exercise their inherent jurisdictions and fulfill their rights and authorities under Treaties or to engage in their unique relationship with Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 04 / 2026

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TITLE: Support for Rescinding the Papal Bulls of Discovery

SUBJECT: Justice, Reconciliation

MOVED BY: Chief Dan Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band, BC

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

WHEREAS:

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

- i. Article 1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law.
- ii. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
- iii. Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
- iv. Article 8 (2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - i) 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.
 - ii) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources.
 - iii) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights.
 - iv) Any form of forced assimilation or integration.
 - v) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

B. On December 11, 2014, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolved to endorse, to support and to encourage the participation of its peoples in the Long March to Rome, a pilgrimage of Indigenous Peoples worldwide to present a petition to Pope Francis I, seeking revocation of the two papal bulls *Romanus Pontifex* (1455) and *Inter Caetera* (1493), otherwise known as the Papal Bulls of Discovery, for the following reasons:

- i. They were the “blueprint” for conquest of the New World;
- ii. They provided moral justification for the enslavement and conquest of Indigenous Peoples worldwide;
- iii. They are an ongoing violation of contemporary international human rights law; and

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- iv. Other communities currently struggling to save their lands are threatened by modern-day ideologies of inequality anchored in the Papal Bulls of Discovery.
- C. On May 5, 2016, the anniversary of the Papal Bull *Inter Caetera*, the Long March to Rome delegation arrived in Vatican City, and sought revocation of the Papal Bulls of Discovery.
- D. In May 2018, a Haudenosaunee delegation arrived in Rome, seeking full retraction of the Papal Bulls used to justify colonial dispossession, specifically *Dum Diversas* (1452), *Romanus Pontifex* (1455), and *Inter Caetera* (1493), and the decree of the 1537 Papal Bull *Sublimis Deus*, including the binding canonical penalty of excommunication under the brief *Pastorale Officium*.
- E. On March 30, 2023, the Vatican issued the following statement at paragraph 8:
 - i. Numerous and repeated statements by the Church and the Popes uphold the rights of indigenous peoples. For example, in the 1537 Bull *Sublimis Deus*, Pope Paul III wrote, “We define and declare [...] that [, ..] the said Indians and all other people who may later be discovered by Christians, are by no means to be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their property, even though they be outside the Christian faith; and that they may and should, freely and legitimately, enjoy their liberty and possession of their property; nor should they be in any way enslaved; should the contrary happen, it shall be null and have no effect.”
- F. It is equally true that on May 29, 1537, by the Apostolic Brief *Pastorale Officium*, Pope Paul III had even declared that any attempt by anyone “[...]to reduce said Indians or other mentioned peoples to slavery, or to despoil them of their goods [...] shall incur the sentence of excommunication ipso facto, from which they may not be absolved except by the Roman Pontiff, unless at the point of death.”
- G. However, on June 19, 1538, under pressure from the King of Spain, Charles V, nullified the canonical penalty in the Papal brief *Non indecens videtur*:
 - i. “since our beloved sons Charles, ever august Emperor, and Ferdinand, the illustrious King of Castile and León, his most dear brother, have humbly petitioned us to revoke and annul our recently issued brief, beginning ‘*Pastorale officium*,’ we, moved by their entreaties, hereby revoke, cancel, and annul the aforesaid brief, and declare it null and void.”
- H. The enactment of *Non indecens videtur* functioned as a legal mechanism that permitted what *Sublimis Deus* had sought to prohibit.
- I. *Non indecens videtur* effectively neutralized the canonical enforcement of *Sublimis Deus*, allowing Spanish conquistadores free rein until 1573 to operate under the infamous *Requerimiento*, the decree that legitimized the right of Spanish conquistadores to enslave, spoliage and force evangelisation under the authority of the earlier Papal Bulls *Inter Caetera* and *Romanus Pontifex*.
- J. The enactment of *Non indecens videtur* functioned as a legal mechanism framed as enforcing obedience to legitimate authority and papal-sanctioned sovereignty, i.e. a just war.
- K. By suspending penalties for violation of *Sublimis Deus*, *Non indecens videtur* did, in practice, allow Charles V and his colonial authorities to legally justify violence—including killing—against Indigenous Peoples under Castilian doctrine, without fear of excommunication.

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

1. Support and endorse the continuation of the Long March to Rome to seek revocation by Pope Leo XIV of the Papal Bulls of Discovery Dum Diversas (1452), Romanus Pontifex (1455) and Inter Caetera (1493) for the following reasons:
 - a. They were the "blueprint" for conquest of the New World;
 - b. They provided moral justification for the enslavement and conquest of Indigenous Peoples worldwide;
 - c. They are an ongoing violation of contemporary international human rights law; and
 - d. Other communities currently struggling to save their lands are threatened by modern-day ideologies of inequality anchored in the Papal Bulls of Discovery.
2. Support and endorse Long March to Rome's third mission to the Vatican to seek revocation of the Papal Brief "*Non indecens videtur* (June 19, 1538)" and rededee with all powers of magisterium the Papal brief "*Pastorale Officium*" (May 27, 1537) and the Papal Bull "*Sublimis Deus*" (June 2, 1537).
3. Support and endorse the creation in Canada of the *Sublimis Deus* Institute with the following missions:
 - a. Acquisition, with the funding of the Catholic Church, the five other Christian Churches named in the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, the government and private funders, of a property and historical building in the National Capital Region;
 - b. Establishment of a worldwide memorial and archive to honour the memory of the suffering of indigenous peoples during the Age of Discovery from a uniquely indigenous perspective;
 - c. Fund and endorse a Centre for Historical Indigenous Documentation (CHID) to carry out the collection, cataloguing and interpretation of public archives and private records, including letters, notebooks, manuscripts, newspapers, leaflets, objects photos, drawings, films, oral testimonies, and scholarly studies testifying to the technique of a "manufactured inequality" as an instrument of war and subjugation;
 - d. Amplifying the message that meaningful and unequivocal repeal of the Papal Bulls is dependent upon:
 - (i) internalizing in every indigenous heart and mind, the message of *Sublimis Deus*;
 - (ii) using the knowledge that, in the fight to defeat the consummate evil wrought by other men in the name of God is a fight where no quarter can be given, and no compromise can be struck in the name of *realpolitiek*.
 - (iii) revocation of the Papal Brief "*Non indecens videtur* (June 19, 1538)" and rededee with all powers of magisterium the Papal brief "*Pastorale Officium*" (May 27, 1537) and the Papal Bull "*Sublimis Deus*" (June 2, 1537).

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TITLE: Support for Bill S-205, Providing Alternatives to Isolation and Ensuring Oversight and Remedies in the Correctional System Act (Tona's Law)

SUBJECT: Justice, Self-Governance

MOVED BY: Chief Jerry Jack, Mowachaht/Muchlaht First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Huy'wu'qw' Shana Thomas, Lyackson First Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. In 2015, the Government of Canada committed to implementing the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada: Calls to Action*, including Action 30, which states:
 - i. Call to Action 30: We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.
- B. The priorities identified within the TRC Calls to Action highlighted connections between mass incarceration, the legacy of forced removal and assimilation as a result of residential schools, as well as persisting inequalities within systems, including the child welfare, education, health and mental health, income, and social support systems.
- C. Since 2015, the number of Indigenous Peoples in federal prisons has continued to rise, despite federal actions aimed at redressing discrimination and inequality in the legal system, including further commitments to implement the Calls for Justice of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) National Inquiry, the adoption of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA), and the release of the Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS).
- D. The Office of the Correctional Investigator has documented that 1 in 3 people in federal prisons are Indigenous, and Indigenous women now represent more than half of all federally sentenced women, despite Correctional Service Canada (CSC) having established sections 81 and 84 agreements intended to support Indigenous-led alternatives, which remain underutilized and are not consistently offered to Indigenous inmates.
- E. The Minister's Implementation Advisory Panel on Structured Intervention Units (SIUs) has identified that Indigenous Peoples are overrepresented within SIUs, some of the harshest and most restrictive conditions of confinement in federal prisons, including that nearly all—96%—of women placed in SIUs are Indigenous.
- F. The 1996 Commission of Inquiry into Certain Events at the Prison for Women in Kingston—responding to unlawful strip searching, shackling and segregation of women, most of whom were Indigenous, within a federal prison—recommended court oversight of correctional decision-making with respect to isolation and a remedy for prisoners when corrections violates human and Charter-protected rights.
- G. Senate Bill S-205, *Providing Alternatives to Isolation and Ensuring Oversight and Remedies in the Correctional System Act* (Tona's Law), focused on oversight, remedies and community-based

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alternatives to isolation in federal prisons is currently under consideration by the Senate Legal Committee.

- H. Key elements of Bill S-205 include: requiring prison authorities to obtain permission from courts to isolate a person for more than 48 hours; allowing courts to order remedies when corrections breaks the law; and breathing life into long-neglected provisions of Canada's correctional legislation that allow First Nations and others most likely to languish in isolation to be transferred out of prisons to the care of their communities, with necessary resources to support their communities to provide culturally informed wrap-around supports and services.
- I. Bill S-205 passed the Senate of Canada with amendments on April 29, 2026, reflecting the Senate's recognition of the urgent need for judicial oversight of correctional isolation and enhanced protections for First Nations and other disadvantaged populations in federal custody, and is now before the House of Commons for consideration.
- J. In 2020, the BC First Nations Justice Strategy was approved by BC First Nations and endorsed by the BC Government. In 2022, Canada, BC, and the BC First Nations Justice Council signed a tripartite MOU to advance solutions to address the crisis of overrepresentation and support the restoration of First Nations legal orders and jurisdiction over the administration of justice.
- K. In March 2025, Canada released the federal Indigenous Justice Strategy to address systemic discrimination and overrepresentation in the Canadian justice system.

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

- 1. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and all Canadian parliamentarians, to consider and support Bill S-205, *Providing Alternatives to Isolation and Ensuring Oversight and Remedies in the Correctional System Act* (Tona's Law), as a measure aimed at advancing Canada's commitments to eliminate the mass incarceration of First Nations.
- 2. Support the implementation of Call to Action 30 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada by calling for steps to uphold First Nations' Inherent rights to self-determination with respect to issues of criminal justice, consistent with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through the re-allocation of resources currently devoted to the imprisonment of First Nations to enable them to maintain their sovereignty and develop community-based supports for their citizens.
- 3. Call on the AFN to advocate for Canada's full implementation of the federal Indigenous Justice Strategy and the National First Nations Justice Strategy to support regions with existing Justice Strategies, such as British Columbia, and advocate to ensure that those regions without similar types of frameworks are resourced to act on their own regional justice priorities.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 06 / 2026

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TITLE:	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Nobel Peace Prize Nomination
SUBJECT:	UN Declaration, International Advocacy
MOVED BY:	Chief Edward John, Tl'azt'en First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Francis Laceese, Toosey Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) is a powerful internationally approved human rights instrument promoting peace and reconciliation.
- B. First Nations in Canada and the Assembly of First Nations were directly involved in the development and adoption of the UN Declaration at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (2006) and at the United Nations General Assembly in New York (2007).
- C. Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories have adopted the UN Declaration through respective federal, provincial and territorial legislation.
- D. The Supreme Court of Canada has determined that the UN Declaration is part of Canada's "positive law".
- E. First Nations have been discriminated against by Canadian, provincial, and territorial governments since their respective inception as governmental authorities.
- F. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final Report (2015) called this discrimination "cultural genocide," which created historic conflicts and intergenerational traumas between the State and First Nations Peoples.

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

1. Support the nomination of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) to the Norwegian Nobel Committee for the Nobel Peace Prize as an internationally approved instrument of peace and reconciliation.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to identify an eligible person to submit the nomination on behalf of the First Nations-in-Assembly, and to work with that person to ensure that the nomination is submitted to the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 07 / 2026

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TITLE:	Supporting First Nations Youth Access to Digital and Culturally Grounded Education in Northern and Remote Communities
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Toni Heron, Salt River First Nation, NWT
SECONDED BY:	Chief William "Billy" Yovanovich, Skidegate Band Council, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, and in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
 - ii. Article 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
 - iii. 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.
- B. Education is a fundamental human right. For First Nations, this right is uniquely situated within a framework of Inherent Rights that are constitutionally protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- C. First Nations have Inherent and Treaty rights regarding education, and the Government of Canada must uphold and honour the authority of First Nations to exercise control over their education systems and learning environments.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has long affirmed First Nations Control of First Nations Education, including through AFN Resolution 12/2010, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education*, and subsequent Resolutions supporting equitable, culturally grounded, and First Nations-led education systems.
- E. AFN Resolution 35/2019, *Additional Funding for First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education*, reaffirmed that provincial comparability standards are inadequate to achieving substantive equality and improved outcomes for First Nations students and learners.

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- F. AFN Resolution 21/2020, *First Nations-Led Local, Regional and Treaty-based Post-Secondary Education Models*, reaffirmed the importance of First Nations-led education approaches that support language revitalization, cultural continuity, and self-determination.
- G. The AFN has previously recognized the importance of wholistic supports for First Nations youth wellness, life promotion, and equitable opportunities for youth through AFN Resolution 01/2016, *Support for First Nations Youth Life Promotion Calls to Action*, and AFN Resolution 78/2016, *Indigenous Youth Suicide*.
- H. Similar resolutions have been passed by First Nations, such as the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, who in Resolution 2026-05-0420, *Approval of Support for Connected North*, voted in support of recognizing Connected North as a key partner in providing virtual learning and educational resources in First Nations communities. Key conclusions from this Resolution include:
 - i. "Rural and remote First Nations communities continue to lack adequate access to educational opportunities and learning resources enjoyed in the rest of Canada."
 - ii. "Connected North provides live, interactive, culturally-relevant virtual learning experiences and access to educational resources for students and teachers in remote First Nations communities."
- I. Digital learning supports and virtual education programming can enhance equitable access to language learning, cultural programming, mentorship, specialized instruction, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and mental wellness supports for First Nations youth in northern, rural, and remote communities.
- J. Connected North's programming provides culturally relevant learning opportunities while also supporting First Nations artists, Elders, mentors, and educators through meaningful engagement and livelihood opportunities.
- K. Sustainable and predictable funding is required to ensure First Nations students in northern and remote communities have equitable access to digital education opportunities, culturally relevant programming, broadband connectivity, and virtual learning infrastructure.

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

1. Reaffirm that First Nations children and youth have inherent and Treaty rights to equitable, culturally grounded, and language-based education systems that reflect First Nations values, identities, languages, and ways of learning.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for sustainable, predictable, and long-term federal funding for digital learning supports, connectivity infrastructure, and culturally relevant virtual education programming for First Nations students on-reserve and in northern, rural, and remote communities.
3. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada, provincial governments, and territorial governments to work in partnership with First Nations to ensure continued and equitable access to digital learning opportunities and educational technologies that support First Nations learners.

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4. Support continued investment in First Nations-serving initiatives that enhance and support access to culturally relevant learning, First Nations language revitalization, mentorship, mental wellness, and educational equity for First Nations youth.
5. Direct the AFN to advocate that future education funding models recognize the unique realities, costs, infrastructure needs, and connectivity barriers experienced by northern, rural, and remote First Nations communities.
6. Direct the AFN to call upon Canada to ensure that funding approaches for virtual and digital learning initiatives are distinctions-based, equitable, flexible, and developed in partnership with First Nations.
7. Direct the AFN to advocate that First Nations students in remote and northern communities have equitable access to culturally relevant educational opportunities and supports comparable to those available elsewhere in Canada, while respecting First Nations jurisdiction and approaches to education.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 08 / 2026

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TITLE: Investing in First Nations Post-Secondary Education to Strengthen Canada's Skilled Workforce

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Chief Leroy Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS

SECONDED BY: Chief Wayne Desjarlais, Ebb and Flow First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - ii. Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
- B. The UN Declaration provides a legislative framework for recognizing the constitutional and human rights of First Nations, including post-secondary education (PSE).
- C. Education is a fundamental human right. For First Nations, this right is uniquely situated within a framework of Inherent Rights that are constitutionally protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- D. First Nations have Inherent and Treaty rights regarding education, and the Government of Canada must uphold and honour the inherent authority of First Nations to exercise control over their education.
- E. The *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #7* calls upon Canada to "develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians."
- F. Canada is entering a period of large-scale infrastructure investment that will require a sustained supply of workers in skilled trades and professions in various sectors. Through Budget 2025, \$280 billion will be invested to accelerate major projects – several of which directly impact First Nations.
- G. In March 2026, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) announced \$1.2 billion in financial aid for PSE. ESDC identified PSE as one of Canada's most important long-term investments, emphasizing that through PSE, Canadians can gain the skills and qualifications needed to obtain jobs in high-demand sectors.
- H. The 2026 Spring Economic Update outlined the launch of Team Canada Strong, an initiative dedicated to recruiting, training, and hiring up to 100,000 new Red Seal skilled trades workers. This program provides \$6 billion over five years to streamline processes for young Canadians aged 15-30.

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- I. While Canada deems PSE a national priority, the same level of commitment has not been provided to First Nations learners. Despite inflation, population growth, and increased secondary school graduation rates, funding for First Nations post-secondary students has not kept up to the growing needs. First Nations continue to face systemic barriers to labour market participation, including lower employment rates compared to the national average.
- J. There is a significant opportunity to expand Canada's skilled workforce by making targeted investments in training and employment initiatives for First Nations communities.
- K. The First Nations population is younger, faster growing, and increasingly concentrated in regions where infrastructure development is planned and/or occurring.
- L. First Nations institutions play a distinctive workforce development role in that they deliver community-based education, serve remote and northern communities, integrate culturally relevant curricula, and offer trades and applied programs aligned with local economies.
- M. Failing to invest in First Nations students and post-secondary institutions will widen labour force participation gaps, reinforce economic inequality, and risk labour shortages for Canada's infrastructure initiatives.
- N. The 2026 First Nations First Ministers Meeting presents an opportunity to strengthen relationships between federal, provincial, and territorial governments and First Nations, to further increase labour force participation, address infrastructure workforce shortages, boost GDP and productivity, and create sustainable economic opportunities for First Nations communities.

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 to dedicate a portion of the \$6 billion investment in the Team Canada Strong skilled trades training initiative to support First Nations students and First Nations institutes.
- 2. Direct the AFN to advocate to the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of Finance, and central agencies for funding to be distributed through Indigenous Services Canada's First Nations Post-Secondary Partnerships Program, First Nations Post-Secondary Student Partnerships Program, First Nations Adult Education in Yukon and Northwest Territories, First Nations Adult Secondary Education Program, and Indigenous Skills and Employment Training to support First Nations trades-specific training and certifications.
- 3. Direct the AFN to advocate to provincial and territorial Premiers for increased supports for First Nations in regions where major projects are underway in their provinces and territories.
- 4. Support elevating First Nations post-secondary education as a priority agenda item for discussion at the 2026 First Nations First Ministers Meeting.
- 5. Affirm that nothing in this resolution is meant or shall be interpreted to diminish, limit, impact or supersede the ability of a First Nation or region to exercise their inherent jurisdictions and fulfill their rights and authorities under Treaties, regional educational models or to engage in their unique relationship with Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #09/2026

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TITLE:	Ensuring First Nations Governance in the Canadian Precision Health Initiative and Genomic Data Initiatives
SUBJECT:	Health, Genomics, Data Governance
MOVED BY:	Chief Rodger Redman, Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band, BC

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 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.
 - iii. 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 maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
- B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #18 states:
- i. 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 health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
- C. The First Nations principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession), assert that First Nations have the right to own, control, access and possess information about their nations, which is fundamental to First Nations inherent right to self-determination and data sovereignty.
- D. The First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) is an independent, apolitical, technical non-profit organization operating with a mandate from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) First Nations-in-Assembly, through Resolution 48/2009 *First Nations Information Governance Stand Alone Centre*, to

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promote protect, and advance the First Nations principles of OCAP® and First Nations data sovereignty. FNIGC's vision is that every First Nation will achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct worldview, and its work supports First Nations-led information governance, applied research, and the development of community-led tools and standards for asserting and respecting OCAP®.

- E. Resolution 30/2025, *First Nations Data Governance Strategy*, affirmed that First Nations Data Sovereignty—the right of First Nations to own, control, access, and possess First Nations data—is an inherent right integral to self-determination and self-government, and must be recognized, respected, and implemented by all levels of government and their agencies and called on the Government of Canada to adhere to Measure #30 of Canada's UN Declaration Act Action Plan.
- F. In March 2025, Genome Canada (with support from the Government of Canada) launched the Canadian Precision Health Initiative (CPHI) to assemble Canada's largest-ever collection of human genomic data, over 100,000 genomes representing the diversity of Canada's population. The CPHI is funded by an initial \$81 million federal investment, anticipating a total investment of \$200 million through partnerships. The initiative has goals to enhance health care through precision medicine.
- G. Genome Canada identified four pillars for the CPHI: generating population-level genomic data; mobilizing and advancing the utility of genomic data; applying data governance and Environmental, Economic, Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects of Genomics (GE³LS); and assembling an alliance of Canadian partners for genomics in health. Genome Canada further stated that CPHI will be deployed in two phases, with Phase 1 focused on establishing an alliance of partners and generating population-level genomic data, while Phase II, expected to launch by 2026, will focus on mobilizing and advancing the utility of genomic data, as well as data governance and GE³LS.
- H. AFN Resolution 16/2025, *Opposition to the Canadian Precision Health Initiative*, directed the AFN to oppose the inclusion, collection, and use of First Nations genomic data within the current structure and implementation of the Canadian Precision Health Initiative and the Pan-Canadian Genomic Library where these initiatives have proceeded without meaningful consultation or consent with First Nations, and without adherence to OCAP® and the UN Declaration.
- I. In March 2026, members of the scientific community expressed in a *Nature Communications* 2026 article, *Indigenous sovereignty and the limits of the CPHI*, their concerns that the CPHI phase design risks generating genomic data before meaningful Indigenous governance is established, and they argue that Indigenous research contexts often require project and data governance agreements to be developed before data production begins. The article cautioned that CPHI's requirements for national databank deposition, broad data sharing, further research use, and access by academic and industry may limit the ability of Indigenous peoples to determine where their genomic data is stored, how it is used, and by whom it may be assessed.
- J. While AFN Resolution 16/2025, *Opposition to the Canadian Precision Health Initiative*, directed the AFN to oppose the inclusion, collection, and use of First Nations genomic data within the current structure of CPHI and the Pan-Canadian Genome Library where these initiatives proceed without meaningful First Nations consultation, consent, OCAP®, and adherence to the United Nations Declaration, CPHI continues to advance. As CPHI Phase II is expected to focus on the mobilization and use of genomic data and data governance, there is an urgent need to ensure that First Nations governance is established

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before any further collection, deposition, access, sharing, linkage, analysis, or use of First Nations genomic data occurs.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) and its regional partners, where appropriate, to support First Nations inherent rights to data sovereignty by engaging with Genome Canada, the Government of Canada, the Pan-Canadian Genome Library, and other relevant partners on the development and implementation of First Nations data governance mechanisms for the Canadian Precision Health Initiative (CPHI) and related genomic data initiatives, including alignment with broader First Nations data governance strategies, frameworks, and future governance efforts.
2. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada, to provide dedicated, long-term, and sustainable funding to First Nations to support First Nations-led genomic data governance, including policy development, technical review, legal and ethical analysis, community engagement, consent standards, data access protocols, and accountability mechanisms.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 10 / 2026

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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

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 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 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.

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- 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 Indigenous Knowledge Systems 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 Indigenous Knowledge Systems with Fisheries and Oceans Canada 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 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) within the past five years, approximately 87% of these documents did not meaningfully include First Nations and/or Indigenous Knowledge Systems (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 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 Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative, with support of all British Columbia 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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 11 / 2026

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TITLE: Minimum standards for ending Canada’s discrimination in First Nations Child & Family Services outside Ontario

SUBJECT: Child & Family Services

MOVED BY: Chief Pauline Frost, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, YK

SECONDED BY: Chief Justice Gruben, Bilikj First Nation, NB

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 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.
- B. In 2016 CHRT 2, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT), and subsequent orders, found that Canada engaged in systemic and ongoing discrimination against First Nations children, youth, and families and ordered Canada to permanently cease the discrimination and prevent its recurrence through durable and enforceable remedies.
- C. In 2025 CHRT 80, the CHRT noted that children cannot wait for long-term reform and directed the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to consult with the National Children’s Chiefs Commission (NCCC), First Nations Chiefs, and other experts, including First Nations and First Nations organizations outside Ontario, as well as those that have filed interested party motions, to develop an evidence-based, comprehensive National First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) long-term reform plan and requested remedies outside Ontario.
- D. In fulfillment of AFN Resolution 03/2025, *Approving Terms of Reference for FNCFS and Jordan’s Principle Tables*, the NCCC conducted regional engagements outside Ontario—in collaboration with the Caring Society—to solicit input on long-term reform of FNCFS from title and rights holders and their experts, who directed that long-term reform must meet the following standards:
- i. First Nations must hold decision-making authority in the implementation of long-term reform.
 - ii. The reformed FNCFS must uphold human rights principles.
 - iii. FNCFS funding must be needs based.
 - iv. Long-term reforms must provide durable protection against discrimination.

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- v. Long-term reforms must be enforced through independent mechanisms and provide guaranteed access to remedies for First Nations and their service providers.
 - vi. First Nations require capacity-building to support their full participation in the reformed FNCFS.
- E. In fulfillment of AFN Resolution 03/2025, the NCCC worked with the Caring Society to draft a national (outside Ontario) FNCFS long-term reform plan that meets the standards described above, the Loving Justice plan.
- F. On December 22, 2025, the Caring Society, with the support of the AFN, submitted the Loving Justice plan for long-term reform of FNCFS to the CHRT.
- G. On December 22, 2025, Canada also submitted its unilaterally developed plan for national (outside Ontario) FNCFS long-term reform, which maintains Canada's unilateral decision-making authority and leaves First Nations in an advisory role, imposes the formula-based funding approach described in the Draft Final Agreement that First Nations rejected in 2024, eliminates any infrastructure for First Nations-led national oversight of FNCFS, and replaces Canada's accountability for ending discrimination with FNCFS agency accountability.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) to advocate that Canada implements long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) outside Ontario to fully end its discrimination and prevent any recurrence of discrimination.
2. Direct the AFN to call on the NCCC and the Caring Society to urge Canada to act with diligence, transparency, and a commitment to reconciliation in developing and implementing long-term reform, consistent with the principle of Honour of the Crown.
3. Direct the AFN to call on the NCCC and the Caring Society to support the affirmation that long-term reform outside Ontario must meet the non-derogable Minimum Standards established in the Loving Justice plan:
 - i. First Nations-led decision-making: First Nations must hold decision-making authority over the design, funding, management and oversight of FNCFS, with meaningful roles for Rights Holders, Elders/Knowledge Keepers, and youth, including those with lived experience in care.
 - ii. Human Rights principles: the reformed FNCFS must be implemented in a manner that consistently upholds human rights, including substantive equality, intergenerational equity, the best interests of the child, and cultural continuity.
 - iii. Needs-based funding: All FNCFS funding must meet the actual, evolving and distinct needs and circumstances of First Nations across Canada.
 - iv. Durability against ongoing or new discrimination: Legal safeguards must protect long-term reforms from erosion due to fiscal restraint, policy change, or political cycles.

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- v. Independent enforcement and continued oversight: Effective, independent enforcement is essential, including continued CHRT oversight until an equally effective oversight mechanism is established.
- vi. Access to justice and protection from retaliation: First Nations and their service providers must have guaranteed access to remedies and enforcement, with explicit protections from retaliation for asserting these minimum standards.
- vii. Capacity as a Crown obligation: Any capacity-building required to meet these minimum standards is the responsibility of Canada, which shall provide adequate, timely, and sustained funding and technical supports to First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 12 / 2026

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TITLE:	Clarity, Accuracy, and Respect for First Nations in Communications on Long-Term Reform
SUBJECT:	Child & Family Services
MOVED BY:	Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Okimawin Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Ira McArthur, Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) and the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA) recognize the right of Indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child. The 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 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.
- B. Pursuant to 2025 CHRT 80, the First Nations-led Loving Justice Plan and Canada's National Plan were both submitted to the Tribunal as distinct proposals for adjudication, reflecting different approaches to ending Canada's discrimination in FNCFS outside Ontario.
- C. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) has retained jurisdiction over long-term reform of First Nations Child & Family Services (FNCFS) outside Ontario and has not yet approved any final national reform framework.
- D. Following the submission of Canada's National Plan, Canada's public statements and materials on the ISC website have been inconsistent, misleading and incomplete regarding information about the CHRT process, the roles of the other Parties and that all proposed National Plans remain subject to CHRT approval.
- E. First Nations leaders, communities and their experts need timely, clear, comprehensive and accurate information to make decisions about long-term reform of FNCFS (outside Ontario).
- F. Communications regarding long-term reform that are incomplete, unclear, or that overstate decision-making authority risk undermining free, prior, and informed consent for First Nations and public understanding of the Tribunal process.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to seek the collaboration of the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) to urge Canada to take steps to fully ensure that all communications regarding First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) long-term reform are comprehensive, accurate and uphold Canada's obligations under free, prior and informed consent and Honour of the Crown responsibilities, by:
 - i. Clarifying that any proposed reform plan (including Canada's National Plan) remains subject to CHRT review and approval.
 - ii. Accurately reflecting the respective roles of First Nations, Canada, and other parties involved with the CHRT proceedings.
 - iii. Avoiding statements that imply that any plan is final, fully approved, or implemented prior to Tribunal determination.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 13 / 2026

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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

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 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.

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- 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.
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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 14 / 2026

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 14-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

TITLE: Strengthening Accountability to First Nations in Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreements

SUBJECT: Social Development, Health, Education

MOVED BY: Chief Joanne Miles, Flat Bay Band, NL

SECONDED BY: Roy T Stewart, Proxy, Natoaganeg First Nation, NB

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 14 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
 - ii. Article 14 (3): States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
- B. In 2023, Canada released the 5-year UN Declaration Act Action Plan, committing to work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations on measures including First Nations self-determination and control over early learning and childcare (ELCC) service delivery in Shared Priority 103 and First Nations Priority 19.
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #12 calls upon "federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families."
- D. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 12/2010, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education*, affirms the duty of federal, provincial, territorial and First Nations governments to ensure that every First Nation child, regardless of residency, has access to culturally-relevant ELCC programming.
- E. First Nations have the inherent and constitutional right of self-government, which includes the right to govern the care and education of their children.
- F. The First Nations ELCC Policy Framework was developed and supported by the First Nations-in-Assembly via AFN Resolution 83/2017, *Support for the National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework*. The Framework is an evergreen instrument that identifies the vision, goals, and outcomes to improve the First Nations ELCC program, with a focus on First Nations governance and control.
- G. In 2021, the Government of Canada announced over \$58 billion over 10 years for provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous partners to support Canada-wide ELCC. New ELCC Agreements between Canada, the provinces and territories were signed in 2025 but not released publicly.

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- H. Provinces and territories are funded through an allocation formula based on the region's per capita population, ages 0-12, which includes First Nations children. There is currently no data on how much of funding administered to the provinces and territories through the ELCC Agreements reaches First Nations children.
- I. Over the last 5 years, First Nations have raised concerns over the lack of participation and engagement from the provinces and territories with respect to the development and implementation of the ELCC Action Plans, despite their commitments to do so. As a result, current ELCC programs do not reflect First Nations priorities for education, such as the ability to prepare and serve traditional foods, teach a First Nations-developed curriculum, and provide wage enhancements for Early Childhood Educators (ECE).

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

1. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to encourage the provinces and territories to uphold their commitments to work and fund First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) by increasing oversight and enforcing accountability measures within the provincial and territorial ELCC Agreements such as withholding of funds to ensure that there is meaningful consultation with First Nations on ELCC.
2. Direct the AFN to request that Canada include clauses in Canada-wide ELCC Agreements with the provinces and territories that meet and uphold the following principles:
 - a. Active and continued participation from First Nations governing bodies, First Nations organizations, and off-reserve First Nations service providers in the collaborative development of Action Plans required under Canada-wide ELCC bilateral agreements, including access to funding for First Nations ELCC Centres that are regulated by a First Nations governing body, or licensed by the province or territory.
 - b. Recognition of regulated First Nations ELCC Centres as meeting or exceeding provincial or territorial licensing standards.
 - c. Report on the number of First Nations or First Nations organizations the province or territory worked with during the fiscal period and publicly report on the funding allocations to First Nations Centres.
 - d. Incorporation of First Nations' languages, culture, and knowledge within off-reserve ELCC Centres that serve a First Nations population with the support of local First Nations, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, First Nations educators, and First Nations organizations.
3. Direct the AFN to request that Canada fund the development and implementation of First Nations Early Childhood Education programs in every region.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 15 / 2026

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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

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 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 Policy (ATR) to address barriers that impede efficient and timely conversion of lands to reserve.
- C. In 2012, the Chiefs-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.

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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 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 for lands held in the 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.

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TITLE:	Support for International Convention on Indigenous Languages
SUBJECT:	Indigenous Languages
MOVED BY:	Chief Chantal Kistabish, Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni, QC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Jean-Charles Pietacho, Conseil des Innu de Ekuanishit, QC

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms that:
- 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 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
- B. The United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages and proclaimed the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032).
- C. This resolution urges the need to act collaboratively to ensure that no one is left behind and to promote and pursue the objectives of the UN Declaration by fostering international cooperation to support national and regional efforts.
- D. Through Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 16/2021, *Support for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-32)*, the First Nations-in-Assembly adopted, notably, the Los Pinos Declaration (Chapoltepek) as a guide for the AFN's participation in the IDIL and directed the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL), the Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL) and the AFN to broadly support activities of the IDIL for the benefit of First Nations languages.
- E. IDIL's mid-term review, which will include evaluation results on the implementation of the Global Action Plan, is set for 2027.
- F. In its 2024 annual report to the Human Rights Council, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) raised concerns regarding the implementation of IDIL's Global Action Plan and made recommendations, proposing, among other things, that "advancing a convention on Indigenous Peoples' languages [be considered]" (HRC/57/64, para. 46).
- G. In 2019, the Parliament of Canada passed the *Indigenous Languages Act* (ILA). It purports to recognize that Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* includes "rights related to Indigenous languages". However, this Act fails to identify any specific First Nations language rights or provide mechanisms for their enforcement.

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- H. Through AFN Resolution 47/2022, *First Nations Languages—A Defined and Enforceable Right*, First Nations-in-Assembly notably called upon the Government of Canada to amend the operative clauses of the ILA and to ensure that First Nations language rights are defined and enforceable.
- I. The legislative and political frameworks governing language in Canada's provinces and territories do not systematically or adequately recognize First Nations' language rights—with several frameworks favoring official languages without explicitly acknowledging First Nations languages. Therefore, perpetuating systemic linguistic inequalities as well as the marginalization of First Nations languages in public services, particularly in education, justice, and administration services.
- J. Despite numerous national and international instruments protecting Indigenous languages, governments do not fully respect First Nations' language rights, nor do they fulfill their related obligations towards them, particularly because of the non-binding nature of many of these instruments that limits their scope and effective implementation;
- K. The adoption of an international convention on Indigenous languages would represent a key mechanism to support their vitality by transforming fragmented efforts into sustained commitments, bringing together within a common framework the principles related to Indigenous linguistic rights, and establishing clear obligations for States regarding the protection, promotion, and revitalization of Indigenous languages, including mechanisms for implementation, monitoring, and accountability, thereby contributing to strengthening the leadership of First Nations.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), upon the securing of adequate funding and resources, to exercise global leadership by establishing a Working Group comprised of AFN Chiefs Committees and experts on Indigenous rights to advocate to the Global Task Force for the International Decade on Indigenous Languages for the development of an international Convention on Indigenous languages.
2. Call on the AFN to advocate for funding required for the Working Group's operation and advocacy efforts.
3. Direct the newly formed Working Group to periodically monitor progress, with AFN Chiefs Committees and the Technical Committee on Languages, regarding work on the Convention.

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TITLE:	Increase and prioritize federal funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People
SUBJECT:	Indigenous Languages
MOVED BY:	Chief Raymond Powder, Fort McKay First Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Veronica Smith, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, ON

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. 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

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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.

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TITLE:	Protecting First Nations' Rights in Response to Federal Major Project Fast Tracking and Pipeline Expansion Initiatives
SUBJECT:	Environment / Lands and Resources / Major Projects
MOVED BY:	Judy Wilson, Proxy, Shuswap Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Leonard Lazore, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, ON

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 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.
- 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. (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. (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 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.

B. First Nations hold inherent and constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights, title, laws, governance systems, and jurisdiction over their lands, waters, airs, territories, resources and ecosystems, which cannot be overridden or diminished through expedited regulatory or legislative processes.

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- C. On November 27, 2025, the governments of Canada and Alberta entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on advancing nationally significant energy infrastructure and pipeline development, including an agreement to work together towards the construction of a new pipeline as early as 2027. This raised significant concerns regarding accelerated approvals, cumulative environmental impacts, marine and freshwater ecosystem risks and the adequacy of consultation and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes for affected First Nations.
- D. AFN Resolution 33/2025, *Affirming the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act and Supporting Coastal First Nations Rejection of any Proposed Pipeline from Alberta to British Columbia's Northwest Coast*, reaffirmed First Nations opposition to the proposed oil and bitumen pipeline expansion through British Columbia, raised concerns regarding the Canada-Alberta MoU, and that the standard of FPIC must be fully upheld for any project deemed to be in the “national interest”.
- E. In May 2026, the governments of Canada and Alberta signed an Implementation Agreement intended to implement the November 2025 MoU and advance a nationally significant pipeline and energy corridor agenda through an accelerated process. The designation of an oil pipeline as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act* was proposed to occur before October 1, 2027. This has raised concerns regarding the pre-determination of project outcomes, weakened environmental oversight, and the erosion of meaningful consultation and FPIC processes for First Nations.
- F. On May 8, 2026, the Government of Canada has announced a series of proposed legislative regulatory reforms intended to simplify and accelerate federal regulatory and environmental review processes for major projects deemed of national significance.
- G. The measures proposed in the two discussion papers include:
 - i. A reduced, one-year timeline for federal impact assessment;
 - ii. The establishment of a Crown Consultation Hub within the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to centralize consultation processes for major projects;
 - iii. A single federal decision document for major projects;
 - iv. The removal of joint review panels between IAAC and the Canada Energy Regulator, as well as IAAC-led assessments of nuclear projects;
 - v. The establishment of Federal Economic Zones to cover transportation corridors, as well as energy production and transmission;
 - vi. Amendments to key environmental protection legislation to streamline regulations;
 - vii. The designation of National Trade Corridors;
 - viii. Measures to modernize port governance; and
 - ix. Simplified regulatory reporting under transportation regulations.
- H. Prime Minister Mark Carney and federal officials have identified pipelines, oil and gas infrastructure other energy export projects and transportation infrastructure, including projects affecting seaways and waterways, as key national priorities tied to economic growth and energy security objectives. This includes the *Building Canada Act*, which received Royal Assent in June 2025.
- I. The government of Canada has proposed centralized project approval processes that may reduce environmental oversight and raise concerns regarding transparency, accountability, integrity and First Nations rights and the Crown's obligations.

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- J. First Nations across Canada continue to experience inadequate consultation, compressed engagement timelines, insufficient capacity funding, lack of transparency and failures to uphold FPIC in relation to major project approvals and affiliated regulatory, policy and legislative changes.
- K. Multiple provincial governments, including BC, Ontario, and Quebec, have recently enacted, or are in the process of enacting, legislative measures intended to streamline development project assessment and approval processes, thereby heightening concerns regarding inadequate consultation, compressed timelines, insufficient capacity funding, and increasing pressures on First Nations rights, title, and territories.
- L. During the 2025 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, the Prime Minister announced that a First-Nations Ministers Meeting (FNFMM) would be convened in 2026 and confirmed that First Nations would set the agenda, with the process intended to support dialogue and establish shared priorities between First Nations, the federal government, and provincial and territorial governments on issues of national significance.
- M. First Nations are not opposed to economic development, infrastructure, or energy projects, but affirm that any development occurring within First Nations territories must fully uphold First Nations rights, title, stewardship responsibilities, environmental protection mechanisms, and the standard of FPIC.

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

1. Reaffirm First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected rights and title in what is now known as Canada and that federal efforts to accelerate major project approvals must fully uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, constitutionally protected Section 35 rights, Treaty rights and the honour of the Crown.
2. Oppose any federal legislative, policy or regulatory reforms that weaken environmental protections, undermine oversight, limit meaningful consultation, compress review timelines or circumvent First Nations Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in relation to major projects and regulatory streamlining.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to immediately call upon the Government of Canada to engage directly with First Nations rights and title holders and seek FPIC through distinctions-based and government to government processes, prior to advancing any new fast-tracking legislation, Federal Economic Zones, pipeline initiatives, or related regulatory or policy reforms.
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for full transparency regarding the mandate, structure, authorities, and decision-making processes of the Major Projects Office.
5. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada and provincial governments to cease from entering into agreements, memoranda of understanding, or political commitments related to pipeline and major infrastructure development prior to meaningful consultation with First Nations and obtaining of FPIC of all impacted title and rights holders.
6. Direct the AFN to engage in parliamentary advocacy if and when the legislative measures proposed in the two discussion papers are introduced, in support of the direct participation of First Nations rights-holders, to oppose all legislative and policy measures aimed at streamlining regulatory approvals, impact

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assessment processes, or consultation processes without the free, prior and informed consent of impacted First Nations.

7. Direct the AFN to advocate for the inclusion of federal fast-tracking legislation, pipeline development, major project approvals, the Canada–Alberta Memorandum of Understanding and associated Implementation Agreement, environmental oversight, and the upholding of First Nations' Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as priority issues for discussion at the 2026 First Nations–First Ministers Meeting and, where such issues are not addressed at the Meeting, to pursue appropriate opportunities to advance First Nations priorities on these matters with federal, provincial, and territorial government
8. Direct the AFN to advocate for adequate funding, technical capacity support, independent legal resources, and sufficient timelines to enable First Nations' full participation in all legislative, regulatory and policy review processes associated with major project fast-tracking initiatives.
9. Direct the AFN, as capacity and resources permit, to support and facilitate collaboration among First Nations leadership, regional organizations, Treaty organizations and rights holders in monitoring and responding to emerging federal major project and pipeline initiatives that may impact First Nations rights, title, jurisdiction, lands, waters and ecosystems.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #19/2026

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 14-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

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

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.
- 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.

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- 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.
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.

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TITLE:	Support First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) for the Development of National Standards and Curriculum for Indigenous Health Navigators (IHN)
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Mark Fox, Piapot First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Dr. Stanley Bird, Peguis First Nation, MB

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.
- 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*.

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- 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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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:	Ogimaa Brent Niganobe, Mississauga First Nation, ON

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.
 - 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).

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- 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.
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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 22 / 2026

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TITLE: Permanent, Sustainable Funding for Health and Cultural Supports and Funding to Address Mental Health and Substance Use Crisis in First Nations Communities

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Sheldon Kent, Black River First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nations, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) establishes the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples, including:
- 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, which includes the right to participate in decision-making and be provided with adequate resources to address their issues.
 - iii. Article 24(2): Indigenous individuals have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view of 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 health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
- C. 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.

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- D. AFN Resolution 78/2025, *Call for Advocacy on Cuts to First Nations Programs* advocates to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Indigenous Services, and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to immediately reverse all planned cuts to First Nations funding in health, education, and mental health. This resolution also states that reductions in federal funding for First Nations constitute a violation of Inherent and Treaty Rights and are inconsistent with the *UN Declaration* and Canada's reconciliation commitments.
- E. AFN Resolution 39/2024, *Establishment of and Funding for a First Nations Healing Fund*, calls on Canada to fully fund and support a healing fund that is led, governed, and administered by First Nations to ensure that programs and services are trauma-informed and culturally appropriate. The resolution also states that ISC align discussions with the United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) Action Plan Measure 81 to secure support and long-term, sustainable, and dedicated funding for the Healing Fund.
- F. A resolution from the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, *Preventing the Sunsetting of Mental Wellness Programming in Manitoba* and a resolution from the British Columbia Chiefs-in-Assembly called for essential services designation for sunsetting mental health and substance use programs and specifically the health and cultural supports for residential schools, day schools and Missing and Murdered Women and Girls. Such actions constitute a violation of Treaty Rights and is inconsistent with the *UN Declaration* and Canada's Reconciliation commitments.
- G. The 2025–2026 Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Departmental Plan identifies the planned sunsetting of time-limited mental health and substance use programs, creating instability and uncertainty for suicide prevention, crisis response, and substance use services relied upon by First Nations communities at a time when mental health, suicide, and toxic drug crises are intensifying.
- H. First Nations leaders, families, and front-line workers are overwhelmed by the sheer scale and complexity of crisis, while support from federal and provincial governments remains fragmented, underfunded, and reactive. First Nations communities possess unique knowledge, cultural practices, and innovative solutions that, when supported by increased resources and collaboration with the federal government, can lead to healthier and safer communities.
- I. Investments in mental wellness requires stable and long-term funding for workforce development, infrastructure, land-based healing programs, cultural supports, transportation, aftercare services, and community-led prevention initiatives to ensure continuity of care and positive long-term outcomes for First Nations.

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

1. Affirm that the nonrenewal of federal mental health, substance use, and cultural supports for First Nations constitutes a violation of Treaty and Aboriginal Rights and is inconsistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Canada's reconciliation commitments outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Final Report.
2. Direct the AFN to urgently call upon the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Finance to immediately halt the sunsetting of mental health, substance use and cultural support programming and to provide a permanent, distinctions-based,

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predictable, flexible, and adequate funding for First Nations traditional health and cultural supports, mental wellness services, suicide prevention initiatives, and substance use treatment and recovery programs.

3. Direct the AFN to advocate for the transition of all time-limited mental health, substance use, and cultural support initiatives into permanent funding arrangements that support culturally grounded, community-led, and First Nations-governed mental wellness systems and that include funding for increased treatment beds, workforce recruitment and retention, infrastructure, administration, evaluation, and ongoing service delivery.
4. Direct the AFN to call upon Canada to provide immediate bridge funding to ensure that no interruption occurs in existing mental health, substance use, suicide prevention, crisis response, healing, and cultural support services while permanent funding arrangements are being negotiated and implemented.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 23/2026

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TITLE:	Renewed AFN–Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism
SUBJECT:	UNDRIP, Rights, Governance
MOVED BY:	Chief Rebecca David, Pauquachin First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, self-government, and participation in decisions affecting them.
- B. In December 2016, Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms (PBM) were established between Canada and Indigenous leadership to advance reconciliation and Nation-to-Nation relationships.
- C. In June 2017, the AFN and Canada signed the AFN–Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities.
- D. The AFN–Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism was intended to advance First Nations priorities, rights implementation, law and policy reform, and socio-economic gaps.
- E. The PBM contributed to significant key outcomes, including implementation of the UN Declaration Act, Indigenous Languages Act initiatives, child and family services reform, and fiscal and policy advancements.
- F. Prime Minister Mark Carney committed at the December 2025 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly to convene a First Nations–First Ministers Meeting in fall 2026.
- G. First Nations leadership have identified the need for stronger accountability, implementation tracking, measurable outcomes, independent evaluation, and transparent reporting.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to seek renewal of the AFN–Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism with the Prime Minister of Canada as a key outcome of the proposed 2026 First Nations–First Ministers Meeting.
2. Direct the AFN to review and update the existing Permanent Bilateral Mechanism framework, including the identification of renewed priorities informed by First Nations leadership, regional priorities and rights-based approaches.
3. Direct the AFN to develop and present a draft framework for a Renewed AFN–Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism, including updated priorities, implementation measures, performance indicators, reporting requirements, accountability mechanisms and implementation timelines, for consideration by

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First Nations leadership at or before the 2026 AFN Annual General Assembly, with final refinement occurring in advance of the proposed fall 2026 First Nations–First Ministers Meeting.

4. Direct the AFN, in collaboration with Regional Chiefs, Chiefs Committees, First Nations leadership and federal partners, to develop and incorporate within the Renewed AFN–Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism:
 - a. Annual public implementation reporting;
 - b. A joint AFN–Canada implementation scorecard;
 - c. Regional engagement and reporting processes; measurable indicators related to UNDRIP, Treaty and inherent rights, title, jurisdiction and socio-economic gap reduction;
 - d. Department-specific implementation responsibilities and timelines; and
 - e. An independent review and evaluation process at least every three years; and
 - f. A framework for the establishment of sector-based implementation, advisory and reporting tables, reflecting First Nations priorities and areas of responsibility, to provide ongoing advice, recommendations, implementation monitoring, performance reporting, issue resolution and escalation pathways to support the work of the Renewed AFN–Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism and inform Senior Officials Meetings, Ministerial Meetings and Leaders Meetings.
5. Direct the AFN to advocate for regular Leaders Meetings, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials Meetings and technical working sessions under the renewed mechanism and to publicly report on progress and implementation status.
6. Direct the AFN to report back to First Nations-in-Assembly on progress toward renewal and implementation through future AFN Assemblies and reporting processes.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 24 / 2026

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TITLE:	Advancing Transition Delivery of First Nations Economic Development Financing to First Nations Controlled Institutions
SUBJECT:	Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Derek Nepinak, Minegoziibe Anishinabe First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Tim Ominika, Wiikwemkoong First Nation, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - ii. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. 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.
- B. The Government of Canada currently delivers the majority of financing tools, economic development programs, and capital instruments designed to serve First Nations interests through federal departments, Crown corporations, and other federal entities including the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Employment and Social Development Canada, the Business Development Bank of Canada, and Export Development Canada.
- C. None of these entities are governed by or primarily accountable to First Nations as their mandates are set by federal legislation, their priorities are determined by federal policy, their boards are federally appointed, and their accountability runs through the Government of Canada rather than to First Nations communities they purport to serve.
- D. This pattern extends to purpose-built Indigenous financing vehicles including the Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation, which remains a federally governed Crown corporation whose board is appointed by and accountable to the Government of Canada thus demonstrating that Indigenous-specific mandate does not constitute First Nations control, governance, or accountability.

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- E. On April 27, 2026, the Government of Canada announced the \$25 billion Canada Strong Fund, framed as a nation building instrument for energy, critical minerals, agriculture, and infrastructure, yet made no reference to First Nations. The institutional architecture routing the delivery of funds does not include designated First Nations controlled institutions as primary delivery anchors.
- F. This pattern of routing Indigenous economic development financing through non-First Nations controlled entities is not consistent with principles of self-determination and creates unnecessary intermediary costs.
- G. A growing ecosystem of First Nations-controlled financial and governance institutions exist in Canada with demonstrated accountability, institutional infrastructure, and capacity required to deliver financing and economic development services directly to First Nations communities, governments, and entrepreneurs.
- H. No co-drafted process currently exists to identify which federal financing and delivery mechanisms should be transitioned to First Nations controlled institutions regarding timelines, capitalization, and governance architecture.

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 establish, in full partnership with First Nations, a formal joint process to review all federal financing tools, economic development programs, and capital delivery mechanisms that serve First Nations' interests.
2. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to develop a transition framework that shifts delivery authority from federal departments, Crown corporations, and other federal entities to First Nations controlled institutions, specifically those accountable to a First Nations board and further mandated by the AFN, with defined timelines and capitalization commitments. This framework must include:
 - a. Dedicated funding to support meaningful First Nations participation, and shall determine through that process which First Nations controlled institutions are the primary delivery vehicles for each financing stream, program, and capital instrument under review;
 - b. Minimum principles that no transition of delivery authority shall occur without the accompanying transfer of resources, data, and institutional capacity required to execute this new authority effectively;
 - c. Provisions clarifying that no federal department or Crown Corporation may satisfy this resolution by establishing an internal Indigenous advisory body or unit in lieu of transfer of delivery authority to a First Nations controlled institutions;
 - d. Be applied both prospectively as well as retrospectively where new financing vehicles and economic development programs announced after the date of this resolution shall be designed from the outset to route delivery authority through First Nations controlled institutions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 25 / 2026

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TITLE:	Etsy Ban on Fur Products
SUBJECT:	Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Jenny Brake, Qalipu First Nation, NL
SECONDED BY:	Chief Tanya Aguilar-Antiman (Stone), Mosquito Grizzly Bear's Head Lean Man First Nation, SK

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.

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.

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- 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, 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 48/2023, 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 UN Declaration, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 26 / 2026

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 14-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

TITLE:	Support Renewal of the Relationship Between The Iroquois Caucus and Assembly of First Nations (AFN)
SUBJECT:	Relationship
MOVED BY:	Grand Chief Cody Diabo, Kahnawà:ke, QC
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Leonard Lazore, Akwesasne, ON

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 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.
 - iii. 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.
- B. In December 2005 at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, the Caucus issued an Iroquois Statement of Solidarity which stated that we would represent ourselves at all regional, national and international levels and speak on our own behalf.
- C. In March 2006 at the AFN Special General Assembly, the Iroquois Caucus made a declaration to support a renewed relationship with the AFN that served to advocate and provide support to strengthen our own governance, as defined by the Iroquois Caucus.
- D. In September 2012, the Iroquois Caucus met with the AFN National Chief, in Ottawa, to discuss issues of mutual concern and a renewed cooperative relationship between the Iroquois Caucus and the AFN and agreed to formalize this relationship through a Protocol Agreement.
- E. In December 2012 at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, the Protocol Agreement between the Iroquois Caucus and the AFN was signed.
- F. The Iroquois Caucus and the AFN wish to renew the Protocol Agreement in order to facilitate and strengthen ongoing cooperation and maintain regular communication with the National Chief and/or office to support coordinated and mutually beneficial efforts through a renewed Protocol Agreement which shall guide the working relationship between the Iroquois Caucus and the AFN.

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

1. Recognize that the Iroquois Caucus presents a unified voice on common issues to protect and enhance the rights, language, culture, lands, environment and resources for the benefit of their Nations.
2. Support the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Iroquois Caucus in affirming their commitment to foster a harmonious and cooperative relationship that is based on mutual respect and sharing.
3. Direct the AFN to sign a renewed Protocol Agreement with the Iroquois Caucus.
4. Direct the AFN to support the implementation of a renewed Protocol Agreement, supported by the National Chief, where consistent with AFN mandates, priorities, and governance processes, and to develop collaborative advocacy strategies on issues of mutual concern while respecting the perspectives of the Iroquois Caucus communities.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 27 / 2026

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 14-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

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

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:
- 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

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 27 / 2026

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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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 28 / 2026

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 14-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

TITLE:	Protecting Free, Prior and Informed Consent in Federal Major Projects and Regulatory Reform
SUBJECT:	Treaties, UNDRIP, Major Projects, etc.
MOVED BY:	Ogimaa Kwe Veronica Smith, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Ogimaa Conrad Ritchie, Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms that Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination and requires States to consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous Peoples in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before approving projects affecting their lands, territories, resources, rights, or interests;
- B. The Government of Canada adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA), committing to align federal laws, policies, and decision-making processes with the minimum standards affirmed in the UN Declaration;
- C. First Nations are self-determining Nations and inherent rights holders, with Aboriginal and Treaty rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and retain authority over decisions affecting their lands, waters, territories, rights, and future generations;
- D. The Assembly of First Nations has previously affirmed through Resolution 77/2023, *Call for Canada to Consult on All Amendments Pursuant to the UNDA* that Canada must obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of First Nations regarding federal legislative, policy, and regulatory measures that may affect First Nations rights;
- E. The Assembly of First Nations has previously affirmed through Resolution 95/2024, *First Nations Leadership in Impact Assessment* that First Nation-led assessment processes are essential to the implementation of the UN Declaration and may inform whether a Nation provides or withholds Free, Prior and Informed Consent;
- F. Recent federal proposals related to major project approvals, impact assessment reform, regulatory streamlining, and accelerated approval timelines have raised concerns among First Nations across Canada that efforts to expedite project approvals may undermine the meaningful implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Treaty relationships, environmental stewardship responsibilities, and Nation-to-Nation decision-making;
- G. First Nations require sufficient time, resources, technical capacity, and community engagement processes to assess potential impacts and exercise their own governance authorities in determining whether Free, Prior and Informed Consent is granted or withheld;
- H. Meaningful consultation alone does not replace or satisfy the requirement to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent; and

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1. Federal approaches that compress consultation, accommodation, assessment, or decision-making timelines may undermine the ability of First Nations to fully assess impacts, engage their citizens, exercise their own governance processes, and determine whether Free, Prior and Informed Consent is granted or withheld.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate that the Government of Canada fully implement Free, Prior and Informed Consent as articulated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA).
2. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to ensure that any legislative, regulatory, policy, or administrative reforms intended to accelerate major project approvals do not diminish, constrain, reinterpret, or override the ability of First Nations to exercise Free, Prior, and Informed Consent through their own governance, legal orders, laws, customs, and decision-making processes.
3. Direct the AFN to advocate for First Nations-directed mechanisms within federal impact assessment and major project review processes, including the ability for Nations to pause, extend, or modify timelines as required to uphold Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Treaty relationships, and Nation-to-Nation engagement.
4. Direct the AFN to oppose federal legislative, regulatory, and policy approaches that substitute, dilute, or reinterpret the standard of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, including language such as "seek to obtain consent" or other formulations that fail to uphold the minimum standards established in the UN Declaration.
5. Direct the AFN to advocate that federal major project approval processes recognize the right of First Nations to determine their own decision-making processes regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent, including through their own laws, legal orders and governance systems; and
6. Direct the AFN to seek funding and, subject to available resources and capacity, convene a gathering for First Nations on free, prior, and informed consent.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 29 / 2026

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 14-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

TITLE: Support for the Establishment of an Indigenous Development Finance Organization (IDFO) to Advance Indigenous Economic Self-Determination

SUBJECT: Economic Development; Infrastructure

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

SECONDED BY: Chief Sydney Peters, Glooscap First Nation, NS

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. 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.
 - 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 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 Government of Canada has committed to advancing economic reconciliation, supporting Indigenous economic participation, and closing socioeconomic gaps between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians.
- C. First Nations continue to face systemic barriers to accessing affordable, scalable, and risk-bearing capital, including barriers related to land tenure, collateral, own-source revenue, risk perceptions, and the legacy of colonial economic exclusion.
- D. These barriers limit First Nations' ability to participate meaningfully in economic development, infrastructure, procurement, value-chain opportunities, and medium-major projects affecting their lands, rights, and economies.
- E. Existing Indigenous financial institutions and public finance tools, including the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association, Indigenous Financial Institutions, the First Nations Finance Authority, the Canada Infrastructure Bank, and Indigenous loan guarantee programs, play important and complementary roles, but are constrained by mandate, capitalization, risk tolerance, project stage, or eligibility requirements.
- F. Persistent financing gaps remain for early-stage project development, equity participation, enterprise scale-up, working capital, guarantees, blended finance, and Indigenous-led technical assistance.

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- G. The proposed Indigenous Development Finance Organization (IDFO) would be a national, Indigenous-led development finance institution designed to provide affordable, scalable, and risk-tolerant financial solutions, including debt, equity, guarantees, blended finance, project preparation support, and technical assistance.
- H. The IDFO would complement existing Indigenous, commercial, and public finance institutions by filling financing gaps, supporting project development and equity participation, strengthening Indigenous businesses, and advancing economic self-determination.
- I. Indigenous-led technical assistance and capacity development are essential to supporting project readiness, due diligence, commercial negotiations, procurement, and long-term economic participation, particularly for small and remote First Nations with limited internal capacity.
- J. Establishing and capitalizing the IDFO would support First Nations economic self-determination, advance Indigenous participation in nation-building projects, strengthen community-led development, and contribute to long-term prosperity for First Nations and Canada.

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 for a Budget 2026 commitment to launch a design process for the Indigenous Development Finance Organization.
- 2. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to commit to establishing and capitalizing the IDFO as a national Indigenous-led development finance institution.
- 3. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to commit the necessary funding and capitalization required to establish the IDFO as a national Indigenous-led development finance institution.
- 4. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to ensure that the IDFO is designed to provide risk-tolerant, affordable, and scalable financial solutions, including lending, equity participation, guarantees, blended finance, project preparation support, and Indigenous-led technical assistance.
- 5. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to ensure that the IDFO complements and strengthens existing Indigenous financial institutions, First Nations fiscal institutions, Indigenous loan guarantee programs, and other public and private finance tools.
- 6. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to work with First Nations, First Nations-led institutions, and relevant Indigenous financial partners in the design and implementation of the IDFO.

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TITLE: Reintroduction of First Nations Drinking Water Legislation

SUBJECT: Infrastructure, Water and Wastewater

MOVED BY: Chief Roderick Gould Jr., Abegweit First Nation, PE

SECONDED BY: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC

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 obtain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - ii. 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.
 - 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.
 - iv. 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.
- B. On July 28, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly recognized access to water and wastewater as a human right.
- C. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 53/2019, *Human Right to Clean Drinking Water*, recognized and affirmed the human right to clean drinking water.
- D. Under the National Class Action Settlement Agreement, the previous and problematic *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (2013)* was repealed in June 2022. Under this agreement, Canada was required to develop and introduce replacement legislation in consultation with First Nations by December 31, 2022. Canada failed to meet this deadline.
- E. On January 6, 2025, Bill C-61 *An Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nation lands*, whose short title is the *First Nations Clean Water Act* (FNCWA), died on the order paper when Parliament was prorogued.
- F. On December 5, 2025, the Federal Court released the decision *Shamattawa First Nation et al v His Majesty the King in Right of Canada*, where the Court affirmed that Canada owes legal duties to First Nations in relation to on-reserve drinking water.

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- G. Bill C-61 reflected decades of advocacy by First Nations and the AFN and was a significant step toward addressing long standing water issues faced by First Nations. It acknowledged clean drinking water as a human right and a fiduciary obligation of the Crown.
- H. AFN and First Nations have long advocated for key elements to be included in future water legislation, including in Resolution 47/2023, *Proposed Federal First Nations Drinking Water and Wastewater Legislation*, which included the following critical elements:
 - a. Recognition of First Nations rights and jurisdiction over lands and waters
 - b. Mandatory requirements for Canada to provide water and wastewater treatment that meets minimum national standards (or where requested, the more stringent of the federal requirements or provincial standards governing residential water quality);
 - c. Adequate and sustained funding (including at a minimum capital, operations and maintenance, and inspections) to address water and wastewater;
 - d. Mechanisms to address transboundary waters;
 - e. Liability protection for owners and operators, and Recognition of rights over source water, minimum binding national standards, commitment to funding, liability protection for First Nations governments, water governance structures, led by First Nations, and mechanisms to address management of transboundary source water.
- I. The AFN has also been advocating for the recognition of First Nations rights to protect source water, highlighting that the key to ensuring clean, safe, and secure drinking water for First Nations in the long-term is a source-to-tap multi-barrier approach – implementing multiple barriers throughout the drinking water system, from source to the tap.
- J. In December 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the federal government's intention to reintroduce new water legislation in Spring 2026.
- K. AFN called on Canada to reintroduce legislation like Bill C-61 through correspondence to, and meetings with, the Prime Minister and Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, identifying key First Nation priorities such as source water protection and jurisdiction, the human right to water, legal protections, and a funding framework.
- L. The Government of Canada tabled Bill C-37, the proposed *First Nations Drinking Water Act* on June 16, 2026.
- M. The Government of Canada did not engage in any discussions with the AFN on the content of Bill C-37.

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

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to demand that the Government of Canada work with the AFN and First Nations to enact water legislation that finally meets the needs of First Nations by reaffirming the following critical elements:
 - a. The human right to water ensuring that First Nations have reliable access to a sufficient, adequate and safe quantity and quality of drinking water and reliable access to effective treatment and disposal of wastewater as essential services;

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- b. Recognition of First Nations rights and jurisdiction over lands and waters and the affirmation of the inherent rights and jurisdiction of First Nations in relation to water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on, in, and under First Nations lands;
 - c. Mandatory requirements for Canada to provide water and wastewater treatment that meets minimum national standards (or where requested, the more stringent of the federal requirements or provincial standards governing residential water quality);
 - d. Providing long-term adequate and sustainable funding for water and wastewater for First Nations to address mandatory legislative requirements.
 - e. Address the systemic inequities in water services experienced by First Nations and achieve substantive equality with non-Indigenous communities.
 - f. Ensure liability protection for First Nations governments; and
 - g. Ensuring that the Government of Canada facilitates collaboration between First Nations and federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments through transboundary source water protection planning and the entering of agreements to protect source water.
2. Direct the AFN to demand that all governments respect and honour the inherent jurisdiction and Treaty rights of First Nations to source water protection, supporting a source-to-tap multi-barrier approach.
3. Direct the AFN to urge Canada to provide essential funding for First Nations as the rights holders to thoroughly review, analyze, and provide feedback on the legislation through the Parliamentary process.
4. Direct the AFN to demand Canada fund and conduct in collaboration with First Nations and AFN a new national water and wastewater needs assessment to inform federal budget cycles and any new federal funding framework further to the new legislation.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 31 / 2026

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 14-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

TITLE: Reaffirming Canada's Commitment to Closing the Infrastructure Gap

SUBJECT: Housing and Infrastructure

MOVED BY: Chief Roderick Gould Jr., Abegweit First Nation, PE

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

WHEREAS:

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

- i. Article 20: 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. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.
- ii. Article 21: 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. 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.

B. The Government of Canada committed to close the Indigenous infrastructure gap on a distinctions-basis in the 2020 Speech from the Throne. This commitment was contained in Ministerial mandate letters in 2021.

C. In 2023, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) completed the first in a series of landmark reports, entitled *Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030: A Collaborative and Comprehensive Cost Estimate Identifying the Infrastructure Investment needs of First Nations in Canada*. The research was undertaken in collaboration with industry experts, ISC, and more than 400 First Nations, and showed that addressing the housing gap on First Nations reserves by the year 2030 required an estimated investment of \$349 billion dollars and a whole of government approach to reduce barriers to First Nation development.

D. Since 2023, federal investments in First Nations housing have been orders of magnitude less than what is needed to close the First Nations infrastructure gap. Including estimated investments made by the Government of Canada, the cost to close the infrastructure gap has increased to \$376 billion due to the rising cost of construction in Canada.

E. Publicly available data on ISC projects and funding with First Nations does not adequately capture the reality or progress on investments to close the First Nations infrastructure gap.

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- F. On May 4, 2026, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) released its report, *New Fiscal Initiatives with First Nations*. It included several important and outstanding recommendations that ISC agreed to. These include:
- i. Indigenous Services Canada should leverage relevant data it collects from 10-year grant recipients to measure, assess, and annually report on the extent to which the grant contributes to closing the socio-economic gaps between First Nations receiving the grant and other Canadians
- G. Government of Canada results and reporting frameworks on First Nations programs and initiatives must be transparent and accountable to First Nations.

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

1. Direct Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to reaffirm its commitment to closing the First Nations infrastructure gap.
2. Direct AFN to call on the Government of Canada to partner with AFN to explore meaningful opportunities for data sharing that respect First Nations principles of data sovereignty, including ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP®).
3. Direct AFN to call on the Government of Canada to work with the AFN and First Nations to develop a transparent long-term approach to tracking and reporting on progress to close the First Nations infrastructure gap, including:
 - a. Developing in collaboration with First Nations a long-term, whole of government plan to close the First Nations infrastructure gap including roles for Government stakeholders and First Nations.
 - b. Ensuring an appropriate results and reporting framework is developed to track progress on the plan, including key indicators that are made available to First Nations and First Nations organizations.
 - c. Supporting First Nations in their community level long-term planning and monitoring progress toward closing the infrastructure gap in their community.

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TITLE:	Right to Adequate Housing on Reserve
SUBJECT:	Housing and Infrastructure
MOVED BY:	Chief Raymond Flett, St. Theresa Point First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Delores Kakegamic, Sandy Lake First Nation, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law.
 - 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.
- B. Canada is facing growing inequality between First Nations and the rest of Canada with a housing gap of more than 155,000 new units needed and more than 85,000 units in need of repair.
- C. This gap is caused by federal legislation, reserve creation, policies and funding that limit First Nations self-determination and self-reliance in the provision of housing and community infrastructure.
- D. These longstanding discriminatory constraints are compounded by rising construction costs, aging assets, population growth, global economic instability, and climate-related impacts that severely undermine community wellness, public health, and environmental sustainability.
- E. For decades, First Nations have advocated for the Government of Canada to recognize and affirm First Nations rights to live in adequate, safe, and secure housing.
- F. The Government of Canada does not yet recognize First Nations rights to adequate, safe, and secure housing, treating First Nations housing instead as a matter of public policy.
- G. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples found in 1996 that "Formal authority for virtually everything associated with housing and residential development on reserves remains in the hands of either the Governor in Council or the Minister of Indian Affairs." (Volume 3, p.389)
- H. The 2024 Auditor General Report on First Nations housing confirms that Canada is only in the early stages of transferring control over housing to First Nations, and that Canada has no strategy to close the First Nations housing gap.
- I. In a landmark ruling on December 5, 2025, the Federal Court issued its first decision in the case of *St. Theresa Point First Nation v. His Majesty the King* (the Decision). The Decision confirmed that the Crown has a duty or obligation to Class Members to take reasonable measures to provide them with, or ensure they were provided with, or refrain from impeding, access to adequate housing on First Nations reserves.

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- J. There are 92 impacted First Nations that qualify and support the class action and 23 additional First Nations who are seeking to qualify.
- K. Specifically, the Decision established that Canada owes fiduciary duties and a common law duty of care to the Class with respect to adequate housing on reserve, and that rights under sections 2, 7 and 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* are engaged.
- L. In the Decision, Judge Favel states: "Canada set aside reserves for First Nations, including the Class, often in remote and inaccessible places within a First Nation's traditional territories. Through the Indian Act... Canada maintained and continues to maintain control over all aspects of the daily lives of First Nations and First Nations people living on reserves. Due to the complex history of the colonial relationship between Canada and First Nations, the Class Members in this case are dependent on Canada to provide housing on their reserves. A structural deficit has been created, and it has been virtually impossible to keep up with the housing needs of First Nations."

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support St. Theresa Point Ansinew Nation and Sandy Lake First Nation and call on the Government of Canada to recognize and uphold its fiduciary duties and work with the AFN and First Nations to immediately introduce measures to close the First Nations housing gap, those measures requiring the free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations.
2. Direct the AFN to support St. Theresa Point Ansinew Nation and Sandy Lake First Nation and call on the Government of Canada to recognize and uphold First Nations inherent, treaty and constitutional rights in accordance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and to respect the findings of the Decision.
3. Direct the AFN to support St. Theresa Point Ansinew Nation and Sandy Lake First Nation and call on the Government of Canada to take immediate and affirmative measures to translate the Decision into government policy and legislation.
4. Direct the AFN to support St. Theresa Point Ansinew Nation and Sandy Lake First Nation's legal action against Canada for breach of its fiduciary duty and legal obligations under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to ensure adequate housing on-reserve.
5. Direct the AFN to support St. Theresa Point Ansinew Nation and Sandy Lake First Nation and recognize the importance of this legal action in setting precedent in the law and defining Canada's duties to First Nations to ensure adequate housing on-reserve.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 33 / 2026

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TITLE: Support for Co-Drafting First Nations Elements of the Federal Indigenous Housing Strategy

SUBJECT: Housing and Infrastructure

MOVED BY: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Daniel Manuel, Upper Nicola First Nation, BC

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 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 programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.

B. In 2023, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) completed the first in a series of landmark reports, entitled *Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030: A Collaborative and Comprehensive Cost Estimate Identifying the Infrastructure Investment needs of First Nations in Canada*. The research was undertaken in collaboration with industry experts, ISC, and more than 400 First Nations, and showed that addressing the housing gap on First Nations reserves by the year 2030 requires the creation of over 150,000 new units, and repairs to 85,000 existing homes. Since then, federal investments in First Nations housing have been orders of magnitude less than what is needed, and the cost to close the housing gap has increased from \$135 billion to \$177 billion in capital, operations and maintenance.

C. On March 19, 2024, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) released its *Housing in First Nations Communities* report, subtitled "*Federal government failing to improve housing conditions for First Nations communities*". It included several important and outstanding recommendations that both ISC and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) agreed to, and that the AFN supported publicly and in full. These include:

- i. "Indigenous Services Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in collaboration with First Nations, should develop and implement a strategy to close the housing

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gap by 2030 that outlines how they will coordinate their efforts, identifies needs and required funding, and establishes measurable targets for tracking progress.”

- D. Budget 2025 included the announcement of an Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)-led cross-government Indigenous Housing Strategy (IHS). Despite a commitment for the IHS to be informed by engagements, there has been limited information on how ISC will approach engagement. ISC has not committed to meaningful co-development with First Nations. There is also no indication that the IHS will be designed to close the First Nations housing gap or that it will include any targets or mechanisms to measure progress in closing the gap.
- E. The time ISC has provided to engage in developing the strategy is wholly insufficient.
- F. Budget 2022 committed a total of \$2.4 billion over five years to support First Nations housing on reserve, funding that is set to sunset in 2026–2027. The Government of Canada has not provided a clear renewal plan or long-term funding commitment to ensure continuity of funding for First Nations housing programs and initiatives.
- G. Other critical federal initiatives to promote the transfer of services from ISC to First Nations and improved asset management are also sunsetting at the end of the 2026-27 fiscal year, risking existing First Nations capacity to plan and care for housing and related infrastructure.
- H. Failure to renew this funding will have serious consequences for First Nations, including delays in housing construction and repairs, increased overcrowding and homelessness, loss of regional housing capacity, and further widening of the First Nations housing gap.
- I. On December 5, 2025, the Federal Court released its landmark decision in *St. Theresa Point First Nation v. His Majesty the King*. Justice Favel affirmed that Canada has a duty to ensure access to adequate housing on reserve and must not impede that access, reinforcing longstanding First Nations assertions that federal systems have made it difficult to develop and sustain adequate housing independently.
- J. The First Nations-in-Assembly adopted the 10-Year National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy through Resolution 57/2018, however the Government of Canada has never formally endorsed or fully implemented the Strategy and continues to rely on short-term, proposal-based funding approaches that have failed to address the scale of First Nations housing needs.
- K. The design, delivery and control of First Nations housing policy and programs must move beyond treating First Nations as “program recipients” and First Nations will not accept the transfer of broken systems. AFN is working to draft an updated First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy focused on asserting First Nations rights to housing and closing the housing gap to ensure all First Nations have access to safe, culturally appropriate, and sustainable housing.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to continue updating of the 10 Year National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy to be presented for approval by First Nations in Assembly.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the Government of Canada to commit to meaningful co-drafting of the First Nations elements of the Indigenous Housing Strategy and to ensure it is adequate to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's recommendation to develop and implement a strategy to close the First Nations housing gap.
3. Direct the AFN to call upon Canada to fulfill its fiduciary obligations to First Nations in housing and infrastructure through sustained, predictable, and long-term investments that address longstanding federal underfunding, replace inadequate federal funding models, and recognize that the First Nations housing gap will not close through the continued distribution of insufficient and fragmented funding that fails to meet the needs of First Nations communities. Specifically, urge Canada to:
 - a. Invest in a 10-year First Nations housing commitment at 2026-27 levels with flexible funding and an escalator to account for inflation, recognizing that additional funding through the Indigenous Housing Strategy will be required to close the housing gap.
 - b. Re-invest in the transfer of care and control of housing and related infrastructure and asset management programs.
4. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to ensure that:
 - a. The drafting of any legislation, regulations and policy instruments related to the proposed Indigenous Housing Strategy be co-drafted with the AFN and relevant Chiefs committees;
 - b. Any resulting legislation is presented to the First Nations-in-Assembly for ratification prior to seeking approval introduction in Parliament; and
 - c. A funding framework is co-drafted with the AFN and relevant Chiefs committees that establishes long-term, fully funded, and needs-based investments to close the housing and infrastructure gap in First Nations communities.

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TITLE:	Support for the Funding and Implementation of the <i>Honouring our Strengths Framework, 2nd Edition</i>
SUBJECT:	Health, Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Kurvis Anderson, Pinaymootang First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Tamara Young, Pictou Landing First Nations, NS

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.
- 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

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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 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 formula that advances the full implementation of *Honouring 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

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- 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.

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TITLE:	Call to Action to Address Chronic Kidney Disease in First Nations
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Tim Ominika, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Patsy Corbiere, Aundeck Omni Kaning, ON

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.
- 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.

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- 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.

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TITLE: A Distinctions-based Approach to Canada's Men and Boys' Health Strategy

SUBJECT: Health, Mental Wellness

MOVED BY: Chief Leroy Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS

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

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.
- ii. 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.

B. AFN Resolution 19/2025, *Support for Sustained Funding for Men and Boys Healing Programs to Prevent MMIWG2S and Uphold the 231 Calls for Justice*, advocates for support of men and boys programs and initiatives aimed at helping First Nations men and boys heal from trauma and prevent violence in their communities. The resolution also calls on the Government of Canada to make long-term, sustainable funding focused on programs supporting men and boys.

C. AFN Resolution 86/2024, *Support for Gender Inclusive Advocacy*, directed the AFN to advocate for new dedicated resources and funding to support work to address the issue of Missing and Murdered First Nations Men and Boys (MMFNMB), and call upon the Minister of Justice/Attorney General of Canada, the provinces, the Department of Justice Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and provincial and municipal forces across Canada to commit to devoting greater resources to addressing MMFNMB, to take action to thoroughly investigate cases involving MMFNMB, and to urgently address the issue of police related deaths of First Nations individuals.

D. Organizations like Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) have launched initiatives such as "Men and Boys Are Part of the Solution," which empower First Nations men and boys to heal, reclaim traditional roles, and become active leaders in ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons. In addition, the Dudes Club Society fosters healing by providing a space to facilitate participant-led community for men's health and wellness through events focused on prioritizing supportive relationships as well as supporting the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness for boys, young men, and gender diverse youth through youth-led initiatives.

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- E. Every region in Canada deserves equitable access to funding, training, and support to help First Nations men and boys prevent violence before it occurs, break cycles of harm, and uphold the dignity and safety of all people in their communities.
- F. First Nations have long upheld sacred teachings that call for balance between the roles and responsibilities of women, men, girls, boys, and Two-Spirit peoples, rooted in mutual respect, kinship, and sacred law.
- G. The root causes of violence, intergenerational trauma, colonization, poverty, addiction, and disconnection from cultural identity, require well-funded, culturally appropriate, land-based, and community-driven healing programs.

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 and Health Canada to develop a distinctions-based, First Nations approach within the federal Men and Boys' Health Strategy, aligned with the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework, co-developed with First Nations rights holders, that is reflective of First Nations jurisdiction and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples obligations, with dedicated policy space, funding, and accountability structures specific to First Nations.
2. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada for sustained, long-term, and flexible funding for First Nations-led, culturally grounded healing and prevention programs for men and boys, including land-based, community-driven, and trauma-informed approaches that prioritize prevention, early intervention, and the restoration of roles as fathers, caregivers, leaders, and Knowledge Keepers.
3. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to ensure that efforts are coordinated across health, justice, housing, and social services to address the interconnected drivers of poor health outcomes and violence affecting First Nations men and boys.

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

SUBJECT: Justice and Treaties

MOVED BY: Chief Dennis Pashe, Dakota Tipi First Nation, Unceded Oceti Sakowin Territory, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Samuel Crowfoot, Siksika First Nation, AB

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 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

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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*.
- 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.

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- 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.
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:

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- 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.

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TITLE:	Direct First Nation Chiefs Representation at the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting
SUBJECT:	Treaty, Lands, Air, Water and Resource Protection in Treaty Territories.
MOVED BY:	Chief Gary Kipling, Beaver First Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Conroy Sewepagaham, Little Red River Cree Nation, AB

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 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - iii. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. 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.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. 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

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- ix. 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.
 - x. 29(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
 - xi. 29(3): States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented
 - xii. 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.
 - xiii. 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.
 - xiv. Article 32(3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact
- B. We understand that Canada is working with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in preparation for this forum. However, Alberta does not have representation at the AFN Executive, and the AFN does not hold a mandate to represent Treaty No. 8 Nations in Alberta. Relying on the AFN alone does not meet the Crown's obligations to engage directly with Treaty Nations.
- C. Treaty No. 8 Nations are rights holders under Treaty with the Crown, with those rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Crown's obligations flow from Treaty and are guided by the Honour of the Crown, including the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate. These responsibilities cannot be fulfilled through organizations that do not represent our Nations.
- D. The First Ministers Meeting will address issues of national importance, including economic development, infrastructure, and decisions that directly affect Treaty lands and resources. Excluding Treaty No. 8 Nations, or limiting participation to indirect representation, undermines both the integrity of the process and the Crown's obligations. Treaty No. 8 First Nations must not be excluded from this forum or indirectly represented through organizations that do not hold our mandate.

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

1. Support the request of Treaty No. 8 First Nations for direct representation at the 2026 First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting, including:
 - i. A dedicated representative for Treaty No. 8 leadership alongside other First Nations representatives;
 - ii. Direct inclusion in all relevant engagement sessions and leadership forums;
 - iii. Recognition of Treaty No. 8 as a distinct Treaty territory with unique rights, priorities, and perspectives; and the ability to speak to their own priorities and positions.
2. Recognize that Treaty No. 8 First Nations remain committed to constructive dialogue with Canada and the provinces/territories in a manner that reflects the Treaty relationship.
3. Support Treaty No. 8 First Nations to call upon Canada and the AFN to ensure that all First Nations leadership be included in any future engagement and leadership forums and that a Treaty No. 8 representative is included at the upcoming First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting in the Fall of 2026.

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TITLE:	First Nations' Priorities for a First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting
SUBJECT:	Rights
MOVED BY:	Chief Jeff Copenace, Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Leroy Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - ii. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - iii. 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.
 - 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 programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.
- B. First Nations and the Crown have entered into sacred Treaty relationships with mutual, perpetual obligations and commitments and these cannot be swept away or modified without the express consent of affected First Nations.
- C. International human rights law, including but not limited to the UN Declaration, has affirmed repeatedly the international status of First Nations as peoples, our collective rights of First Nations as peoples and including the right to self-determination.
- D. Free prior informed consent is a key aspect of the right to self-determination under international law, as affirmed by the UN Declaration, resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as specific guidance, observations and recommendations from UN human rights bodies respecting Canada's binding obligations under the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and other international instruments.
- E. The Crown holds many other binding consent obligations and consultation obligations under Treaty, the Constitution of Canada and the common law of Canada.
- F. First Nations have inherent rights and Treaty rights affirmed and entrenched in the Constitution of Canada.

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- G. First Ministers' Meetings (FMM) are meetings convened by the Prime Minister that include the Premiers of the provinces and territories. They are meant to foster collaboration on matters of federal, provincial, and territorial importance. First Nations have historically been excluded from these meetings despite the fact that many of the discussions often impact First Nations rights and interests.
- H. There has never been a First Nations specific FMM. Previous FMM meetings, like the Kelowna or Charlottetown Accords included some participation of First Nations, Inuit and Metis organizations.
- I. In the summer of 2025, National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak met with the Council of the Federation (COF) which is a yearly meeting of the premiers of the provinces and the territories. Though strong advocacy, National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak secured a commitment from the premiers to request that the Prime Minister hold the very first - First Nations specific FMM.
- J. At the December 2025, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly, Prime Minister Mark Carney committed to calling an unprecedented FMM focused on First Nations' priorities.
- K. In anticipation of a Fall 2026 First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting (FNFMM), the AFN organized a series of virtual townhalls, attended regional assemblies, and met with AFN Councils and Chiefs Committees to solicit input from First Nations on the structure, content, and outcomes of an FNFMM.
- L. First Nations leadership underscored the importance of grounding the FNFMM in ceremony and to seek the guidance of Knowledge Keepers and Elders in the planning of the FNFMM.
- M. First Nations leaders stressed that the FNFMM should be a start to an ongoing conversation and not a one-time event, and that key objectives at the FNFMM would be to ensure First Nations' exercise of their rights and responsibilities, improving their quality of life, and participation in decision-making.
- N. There was consensus among many that a strategic outcome of the FNFMM would be to secure commitment to a renewed process of addressing multi-jurisdictional issues with clear accountability and implementation mechanisms and timelines.
- O. First Nations leadership expressed the importance of ensuring balanced representation and the need to ensure inclusive representation, of Knowledge Keepers, Youth, Women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and communities facing crises.

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

1. Support a First Nations First Ministers' Meeting (FNFMM), to be convened in Fall 2026 in Ottawa, Ontario, as an initial discussion with federal, provincial, and territorial leaders.
2. Direct the AFN to ensure that FNFMM discussions are grounded in affirmation and recognition of First Nations Treaty, inherent, and s.35 rights and jurisdiction.
3. Direct the AFN to ensure that one of the outcomes of the FNFMM is agreement on the process to hold future FNFMMs that will further First Nations priorities, positions and objectives and establish an on-going dialogue with the federal, provincial and territorial governments grounded in First Nations rights and jurisdiction.

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4. Direct the AFN to ensure that First Nations are represented with full inclusion in other FMMs on matters of national importance and any other matters which First Nations identify a need to participate in fully;
5. Direct the AFN to include ceremony, guided by Knowledge Keepers and Elders in the FNFMM process.

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TITLE: Reinstatement of the AFN Lands Sector and Support the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources

Subject: Lands, Chiefs Committees

Moved by: Chief Wilfred King, Gull Bay First Nation, ON

Seconded by: Judy Wilson, Proxy, Shuswap Indian Band, BC

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:
 - i. (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
 - ii. (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.
- 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.

B. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources (CCoLTR) is mandated by the First Nations-in-Assembly to support First Nations' self-determination and protect

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First Nations' inherent title, rights, and jurisdiction over their traditional lands, territories, and resources. The CCoLTR is a longstanding Chiefs Committee that has provided guidance to the AFN for decades on issues related to lands, territories, and resources.

- C. In 2017, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 100/2017, *Chiefs Committee on Claims - Change of Name and Clarification of Mandate*, converting the Chiefs Committee on Claims into the CCoLTR and expanding its mandate and objectives to cover issues relating broadly to lands, territories, and resources. Since then, the CCoLTR has provided critical guidance to the AFN on specific claims, Additions to Reserve, as well as the Inherent Right to Self-Government and Comprehensive Land Claims Policies.
- D. On March 19, 2026, the CCoLTR was informed of changes to the AFN's organizational structure, including the elimination of the Lands Sector and the transfer of the CCoLTR to the Economic Development portfolio. These changes were made without the CCoLTR's knowledge or input and took immediate effect.
- E. On March 19, 2026, and again on May 7, 2026, the CCoLTR was advised that the restructuring was necessary because funding was not available to support the Lands Sector. However, according to the Government of Canada Open Data Portal (<https://search.open.canada.ca/grants/record/isc-sac.1910-2025-2026-Ort4-0018312,current>), a March 6, 2026 amendment to a contribution agreement between Canada and the Assembly of First Nations provided \$500,081.81 in funding for specific claims work, a mandate that falls within the responsibilities of the Lands Sector and the CCoLTR.
- F. The AFN's organizational changes are inconsistent with the CCoLTR's rights-based mandate to protect First Nations' inherent title, rights, and jurisdiction over their traditional lands, territories, and resources, and to seek justice for Canada's unlawful actions and the resulting harms to First Nations. While economic development opportunities may arise from the resolution of these issues, they are outcomes of rights-based processes rooted in justice, not the primary objective. Instead, the AFN's organizational changes reflect the priorities of the Government of Canada under Prime Minister Mark Carney's One Canadian Economy major projects agenda, which foregrounds accelerated infrastructure and industrial development on First Nations lands while moving away from a rights-based approach and previous commitments aligned with the UN Declaration. These changes have also materially reduced the specialized technical support previously available to the CCoLTR and disrupted longstanding collaborative relationships with partner organizations, weakening effective national advocacy and undermining the ability of First Nations to pursue justice.
- G. Since 2017, the CCoLTR and AFN Lands Sector have worked in close collaboration with First Nations and their representative organizations to advance a rights-based approach to the resolution of specific claims. They have provided timely and effective political and technical support on priorities identified by First Nations, including:
 - i. Working to co-develop a fully independent Specific Claims Resolution Centre that enacts Indigenous laws and the convening of a Council of Experts on Indigenous Laws to guide this work;

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- ii. Advocating for the removal of the arbitrary \$150 million cap on compensation at the Specific Claims Tribunal (the Tribunal);
 - iii. Defending the Tribunal's institutional and judicial independence;
 - iv. Promoting land return as a widely available remedy in settling specific claims; and
 - v. Advancing reforms to the Government of Canada's Additions to Reserve policy.
- H. First Nations-in-Assembly have adopted numerous resolutions that provide clear mandates to the CCoLTR and the Lands Sector to advance this work. These priorities are grounded in access to justice, First Nations' human rights, and the knowledge that land is foundational to First Nations' inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction. These priorities require organizational structures aligned with their nature and importance, including a CCoLTR supported by a dedicated AFN Lands Sector with the technical capacity necessary to implement mandates provided by First Nations-in-Assembly.

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

1. Support the mandate and objectives of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources (CCoLTR).
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to provide full support to the CCoLTR as a distinct Chiefs Committee under a Lands Portfolio to ensure a rights-based approach to resolving historical grievances, and ensure it remains grounded in First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected rights, title, and jurisdiction.
3. Call on the AFN to work with the CCoLTR to reinstate the Lands Sector within the next 6 months to ensure a rights-based approach to resolving First Nations' historical grievances and enable it to provide dedicated technical support to the CCoLTR, and report back to First Nations-in-Assembly on progress at the December 2026 Special Chiefs Assembly.

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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

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 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.

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- 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. 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.
- K. 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.
- L. 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

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Association, to highlight the urgency of this issue and advance advocacy efforts to ensure that Tribunal member vacancies are filled.

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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

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.
- 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

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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.
- 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

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

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TITLE: Rejection of Additions to Reserve Re-Design Process

SUBJECT: Lands

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

SECONDED BY: Proxy Judy Wilson, Shuswap Indian Band, BC

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 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:
 - i. (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.
 - ii. (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.
- iii. Article 28:
 - i. (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.
 - ii. (2) Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories, and resources in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

B. The Government of Canada's Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy and process has been largely ineffective in adding lands to First Nations' reserves in a timely or efficient manner.

C. Budget 2021 committed \$43 million over three years to support ATR reform, including \$10 million for reform.

D. In 2022, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) provided \$4 million to over 50 First Nations and First Nations organizations to facilitate First Nations analysis on ATR reform, including the submission of over 200+ First Nations determined solutions.

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- E. In 2024, CIRNAC convened a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association, the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre, and Self-Governing First Nations, to co-development reform options for consideration by First Nations.
- F. The First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 10/2024, *Advancing Additions to Reserve Reform* and Resolution 70/2024, *Full Involvement of First Nations in Additions to Reserve Re-design*, which collectively mandated the AFN's participation in the TAC, directed the AFN to engage with First Nations directly, and called on Canada to ensure all First Nations are fully involved in reform.
- G. Since 2024, there have been no draft policies available to First Nations and their representative organizations to provide comments and feedback during drafting.
- H. In April 2025, CIRNAC released its *Pathways to Additions to Reserve Policy Reform: First Nation Voices in Action*, in which Canada reiterated its intent to co-develop the policy with First Nations by recognizing and committing to implement over 900 First Nations-developed recommendations in the areas of policy, legislation, funding, and process reform.
- I. The Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources (CCoLTR) remains concerned by the lack of engagement and First Nations-driven re-design as mandated by AFN Resolutions, Canada's public statements, and the UN Declaration.
- J. Additionally, at the December 2025 Special Chiefs Assembly, the CCoLTR was informed by AFN technical advisors that CIRNAC has retreated from co-development and instead has drafted versions of the policy without TAC involvement, substantive input and direction as mandated, nor that of First Nations collectively.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to reject Canada's current approach to the Additions to Reserve re-design process for not fully involving First Nations in a First Nations-led re-design process.
2. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to release the draft ATR policy to all First Nations and defer from advancing policy reform until First Nations input and calls to action are reflected through a robust consultation period.
3. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to publicly commit to an ATR reform process that fully involves First Nations, reflects the distinct aspirations of First Nations, respecting the diversity of land regimes and regional realities, and is compliant with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).
4. Direct the AFN to establish a process through collaboration with First Nations, regional organizations, and tribal councils interested, to share analysis and information on the ATR policy and to report back on these efforts and developments at the next available assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 44 / 2026

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TITLE: Addressing the Impact of Discriminatory Funding Gaps and Federal Policies on the Implementation of First Nations Child and Family Services Laws

SUBJECT: Social Development, Governance, Self-Determination

MOVED BY: Proxy Wenecwtsin Wayne Christian, Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band, BC for Kupki7 Sunny Lebourdais Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band, BC

SECONDED BY: Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tkemlúps te Secwépemc, BC

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 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 children and youth have long been removed from their communities and disconnected from their culture by colonial policies and practices that result in discriminatory harms that continue to this day.
- C. In response to these harms, First Nations are exercising their inherent jurisdiction over child and family wellbeing, including by enacting and implementing laws to provide culturally grounded programs and services to protect their children, youth, and families and support their reconnection, recovery, and healing under *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Act).
- D. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA)* Action Plan, Measure No#29, requires the continued implementation of the Act.
- E. The Government of Canada provides capacity-building funding to support First Nations who wish to develop structures, systems, and services to support the implementation of First Nations child and family services laws before entering into a coordination agreement. However, the Government of Canada deters First Nations from implementing their laws by terminating capacity funding eligibility upon the date that a First Nation requests to enter into a coordination agreement.
- F. Despite affirmation and commitment through the Act to support the right of First Nations to self-determination, Canada asserts their views on how First Nations choose to organize themselves in the coordination agreement and implementation process.

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- G. Additionally, Canada's initial five-year funding commitment expired on March 31, 2025. In December of 2024, First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution, 92/2024, *Renewed Capacity-Building Funding Commitment for An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, calling on the federal government to renew its commitment to provide capacity-building funding to Indigenous Nations over five years, beginning in the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- H. In June 2025, the federal government renewed its funding commitment for an additional two fiscal years, which is set to expire on March 31, 2027. To ensure that First Nations sustain momentum in building capacity in child and family services, it is imperative that Canada continue to provide capacity-building funding and address the issues described herein. Therefore, this resolution replaces AFN Resolution 92/2024.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for flexible funding approaches that includes the continued availability of capacity-building funding to support the unique circumstances of the First Nation exercising its inherent jurisdiction and legislative authority under *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Act).
2. Direct the AFN to urge the Government of Canada to work with First Nations and the provincial and territorial governments to supplement federal capacity-building funding in support of the development and implementation of First Nations child and family services laws.
3. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to recognize, as required by the Act, the inherent right of First Nations to self-government, including the ability of First Nations to determine who is an "Indigenous governing body" for the purposes of the Act.
4. Direct the AFN to call on the federal government to renew its commitment to provide capacity-building funding to First Nations over five years, beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year, to support the implementation of the Act.

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TITLE:	Building Canada Act
SUBJECT:	Lands and Resources, Treaties, Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Joyce McLeod-Naytowhow, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Christine Longjohn, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, SK

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 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.
- B. In May, 2025, the Privy Council Office (PCO) invited First Nations organizations and institutions to engage on proposed national interest legislation, First Nations leaders and technical representatives emphasized that any consultation must occur directly with First Nations as rights holders.
- C. The PCO noted that United States tariffs and other trade-related policies put Canada's economic future at risk and that Canada intends to expand and diversify trade and develop energy and natural resources through National Interest Legislation.
- D. On June 24, 2025, the Bill passed Third Reading in the House of Commons and subsequently passed through the Senate.
- E. In July 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney met with First Nations leadership from across the country; however, logistical limitations prevented many First Nations from being fully represented by their political, legal, and technical advisors.
- F. On August 29, 2025, Canada announced the creation of a new Major Projects Office headquartered in Calgary, to designate projects of national interest and expedite regulatory approvals through a single-window review process capped at two years.
- G. On September 10, 2025, the Prime Minister announced the membership of the Indigenous Advisory Council, which included Indigenous representatives from across Canada and whose stated role is to support major projects through Indigenous participation and economic opportunities.

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- H. First Nations continue to face significant financial and human capacity challenges that hinder their ability to participate meaningfully, comment on proposed approaches, and respond to major project and legislative processes that may affect their Inherent and Treaty rights.
- I. Given the foregoing, some First Nations may be left behind while others may benefit from major projects, particularly those that are in close proximity to a project.
- J. First Nations are the rights holders and must retain the authority to determine their own positions, level of participation, and approach in relation to federal legislation, major projects, and related government processes. Government-appointed advisory bodies do not replace direct engagement with First Nations and cannot determine positions on behalf of First Nations.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate that each First Nation retains the authority to determine its own position, level of participation, and approach in relation to the *Building Canada Act*, major projects, and related federal processes.
2. Direct the AFN to support First Nations within its available resources and capacity by seeking information, pursuing capacity funding opportunities, developing political, legal, and advocacy strategies that assert First Nations jurisdiction, and providing updates regarding the *Building Canada Act*, the Major Projects Office, and related developments that may impact Inherent and Treaty rights.
3. Direct the AFN to advocate that federal engagement on national interest projects must occur directly with First Nations as rights holders and that no government-appointed advisory body can replace or override the authority of First Nations to speak for themselves.
4. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to consult and cooperate directly with First Nations prior to identifying, selecting, or advancing any project of national interest and to ensure First Nations have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in decisions that may affect their Inherent and Treaty rights, lands, territories, and resources.
5. Direct the AFN to advocate for sufficient and sustainable capacity funding to ensure all First Nations, regardless of size, location, or proximity to a project, can effectively participate in legislative, regulatory, and project-related processes.
6. Direct the AFN to monitor the implementation of the *Building Canada Act* and the Major Projects Office and to advocate that federal processes respect First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights and do not diminish the Crown's obligations to consult and cooperate directly with First Nations.
7. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to advance a renewed Nation-to-Nation economic relationship based on Treaty obligations, recognition of First Nations jurisdiction, meaningful participation in economic development, and equitable access to the benefits arising from projects occurring within First Nations Treaty and traditional territories.

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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, Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation, SK

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;

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;

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

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TITLE:	Treaty Implementation Through Opportunity and Strategic Government Investment
SUBJECT:	Treaties, Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Lorie Whitecalf, Sweetgrass First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Darcy Desjarlais, Fishing Lake First Nation, SK

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 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 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.
 - 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.
 - v. Article 32 (3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
- B. First Nations are sovereign Nations with Inherent and Treaty-protected rights to economic participation, development, and prosperity within our Treaty and traditional territories.
- C. The strength of our Nations depends on the readiness and opportunity of our youth, and there is an urgent need to prepare First Nations students and young people to participate in skilled trades, professions, and emerging economic opportunities;
- D. The Government of Canada has committed approximately \$51 billion over ten years toward local infrastructure investments, representing a significant opportunity for workforce development and economic growth;

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- E. This investment is primarily structured through provincial, territorial, and municipal systems and does not adequately recognize First Nations as governments or ensure their direct participation;
- F. Without immediate action, First Nations risk being excluded from the full benefits of development occurring within our Treaty and traditional territories;
- G. Preparing First Nations youth through coordinated education, training, and workforce readiness initiatives is essential to ensuring long-term economic participation and prosperity; and
- H. Meaningful Treaty implementation requires that First Nations participate directly in the economic opportunities, employment, procurement, and long-term benefits arising from investments occurring within their Treaty and traditional territories.

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 to ensure First Nations have direct access to and benefit from the approximately \$51 billion infrastructure investment and future infrastructure initiatives, including support for a First Nations youth workforce readiness initiative tied to training, apprenticeships, employment, skilled trades, professions, and long-term career pathways;
2. Direct the AFN to advocate for mandatory First Nations participation requirements in federally funded infrastructure and capital projects occurring within or affecting First Nations Treaty and traditional territories, including measurable targets for employment, apprenticeships, procurement opportunities, contracting opportunities, and First Nations business participation;
3. Direct the AFN to advocate for a national review of federal infrastructure investments and capital project policies to ensure First Nations governments are recognized as governments and are able to develop and implement their own capital project plans and priorities;
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for a national First Nations Infrastructure Workforce Strategy that supports youth workforce readiness, skilled trades training, professional development, entrepreneurship, and long-term career pathways linked to federal infrastructure investments;
5. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to recognize First Nations-led capital project plans and policies as exercises of First Nations governance and demonstrations of community need and priority.

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TITLE: Eligibility Determination for On-Reserve Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

SUBJECT: Social, Disabilities, Health, Governance, Data Sovereignty

MOVED BY: Chief Erica Beaudin, Cowessess First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief George Cote, Cote First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirm that:
- 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 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 have the inherent and constitutional rights to self-government, self-determination and the right to determine and administer programs and services affecting their citizens in accordance with their own priorities, governance systems, laws, and traditions.
- C. In 1964, Canada established the On-Reserve Income Assistance (IA) Program to assist First Nations on-reserve to meet basic needs.
- D. AFN Resolutions and the First Nations policy recommendations frameworks affirm that First Nations adults with disabilities living on-reserve face significant barriers in accessing adequate supports and services, including limitations in capacity and infrastructure, leading to calls for a comprehensive continuum of culturally appropriate disability services across the lifespan for First Nations persons with disabilities on-reserve.
- E. In 2019, long-term reform for On-Reserve IA was initiated after extensive First Nations engagement and the development of recommendations to move away from basic income support toward holistic, culturally relevant programs that empower First Nations and support the design and delivery of programs that fit their specific contexts and priorities and greater self-governance.
- F. AFN Resolution 85/2023, *Support for the Technical Working Group on Social Development to Continue Income Assistance Program Reform*, called on the AFN's Technical Working Group on Social Development to conduct and oversee the costing of the long-term financial investments required to fully

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implement First Nations-developed policy recommendations for reform of the IA Program. The AFN anticipates a final report on IA reform costs to be completed in December 2026.

- G. On December 2, 2025, Indigenous Services Canada indicated that the proposed For On-Reserve Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities System (FORDIS-S) would be used on an interim basis to determine eligibility for on-reserve disability income supports and would rely upon integration with provincial income support systems.
- H. The transfer or delegation of On-Reserve IA programming and services to provincial systems is contrary to the objectives of the Department of Indigenous Services Act, S.C. 2019, which contemplates the transfer of responsibilities for First Nations programs and services from Indigenous Services Canada to First Nations.
- I. Eligibility systems for disability supports, such as the proposed use of FORDIS-S, to determine eligibility for On-Reserve disability supports raises significant concerns regarding First Nations self-determination, self-government, the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP®), data sovereignty, and respect for the long-term reform process for On-Reserve Income Assistance.

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

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to formally oppose and advocate against any federal approach that relies upon provincial disability eligibility systems to determine access to First Nations disability supports on the premise that such approaches infringe upon First Nations inherent rights to self-determination and self-government, Treaty rights (where applicable), and constitutional rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.
- 2. Direct the AFN to advocate that Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) respect the original intent of On-Reserve Income Assistance (IA) reform by supporting First Nations-led approaches to disability support programs and services rather than integrating First Nations citizens into provincial eligibility systems and frameworks.
- 3. Direct the AFN to advocate for the development of a separate and distinct First Nations-led disability framework for evaluating income assistance eligibility that recognizes First Nations inherent, constitutional and treaty rights.
- 4. Direct the AFN to work with First Nations, technical experts, and Canada to support the development of First Nations-led approaches to disability eligibility determination and supports.
- 5. Direct the AFN to advocate for Canada to provide adequate and sustainable resources to fund First Nations-led research, engagement, policy development, governance design, data and information gathering, and the development of disability support and eligibility approaches as part of the ongoing reform of the on-reserve IA Program.
- 6. Direct the AFN to call upon Canada to publicly report any transfer of funds, authorities, responsibilities, or service delivery arrangements involving provincial governments in relation to on-reserve disability supports and IA programming.

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TITLE: Developing a First Nations Water Security Strategy

SUBJECT: Rights, Water, Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Rebecca David, Pauquachin First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Robert Charlie-Tetlich, Inuvik Native Band, NT

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 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.
- B. In January 2026, a UN Report declared that the planet has entered a phase of global water bankruptcy, highlighting that the crisis of depleted and polluted freshwater systems unduly impact populations that experience water scarcity, including Indigenous Peoples.
- C. The Government of Canada's current focus on national security, economic growth and accelerating major project development has demonstrated a lack of adherence to the Crown's duty to consult with First Nations, and proposed rollbacks to federal legislation that protect freshwater such as the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, and the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, increasing the likelihood of further impacts to the quality and quantity of freshwater ecosystems, including source water.
- D. On March 22, 2026, the Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment, Climate Change, and Nature and Minister responsible for the Canada Water Agency (CWA), announced the launch of efforts to develop Canada's first National Water Security Strategy.
- E. To be led by the CWA, the National Water Security Strategy is envisioned to address freshwater related threats and opportunities in a way that protects freshwater ecosystems and secures water for communities and the economy, now and for future generations.
- F. In recent meetings with First Nations organizations, the CWA indicated its intention to pursue a National Water Security Strategy by March 2027 without sharing how the agency will work with First Nations on its development.
- G. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and regional First Nations organizations have voiced ongoing concerns to the CWA about inadequate support and resourcing for First Nations to meaningfully participate and engage on its many initiatives, which include the modernization of the *Canada Water Act*, the development of a National Freshwater Data Strategy, and more recently the National Water Security Strategy.

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- H. AFN Resolution 53/2023 *First Nations-led Process for National Water Stewardship and the Canada Water Agency* directed the AFN to call on Canada to halt the creation of the CWA until First Nations concerns are addressed and to fund the creation of a national First Nations-led water stewardship taskforce under the guidance of the AFN's chiefs committees to inform the implementation of the CWA and related legislation, policies, and initiatives.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), with guidance from relevant Chiefs Committees, First Nations Knowledge Keepers, women, youth, and leadership, to develop a First Nations Water Security Strategy that:
 - a. Affirms First Nations' inherent, treaty, and constitutionally protected rights to water and water security;
 - b. Outlines ways to address current threats to freshwater ecosystems including source water; and
 - c. Identifies ways to protect freshwater ecosystems that secures water for First Nations in accordance with First Nations inherent, Treaty, and constitutionally protected rights, as well as the standards outlined in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
2. Direct the AFN to call on the Minister of Environment Climate Change and Nature (ECCN) and the Minister Responsible for the Canada Water Agency (CWA) to immediately halt engagements and development of their strategies until they commit to providing immediate, adequate, and sustained funding to First Nations, the AFN, and First Nations organizations to support their meaningful participation and engagement in:
 - a. the development of a First Nations-led water stewardship task force as directed by the First Nations-in-Assembly; and
 - b. the development of a First Nations Water Security Strategy; and
 - c. CWA initiatives such as the modernization and co-development of the *Canada Water Act*, the National Freshwater Data Strategy, and the National Water Security Strategy.
3. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada and the CWA to:
 - a. Affirm that First Nations' inherent, treaty, and constitutional rights to water are protected and considered throughout and beyond the development of Canada's National Water Security Strategy;
 - b. Ensure that engagement and resourcing requirements appropriately reflect First Nations' distinct needs, geographical differences, populations, with particular attention to regions with long-standing boil water advisories; and
 - c. Present on CWA initiatives and its engagement approach at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2026.
4. Direct the AFN to work with relevant Chiefs Committees to develop the First Nations-led water stewardship task force, once funding has been secured, in a manner that respects the regional and sub-

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regional diversity of watersheds and ensures First Nations have meaningful pathways to inform the task force mandates.

5. Direct the AFN to reject any legislation, policy, or strategy, from the CWA related to water management that could have implications on First Nations inherent, Treaty, and constitutionally protected rights that are undertaken without the free, prior and informed consent or endorsement of First Nations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 50/2026

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TITLE:	Support for Jaali's Call to Action and a National Review of Indigenous Patient Safety
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Edwin Ananas, Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Erma Merasty, Shoal Lake First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The Treaties, the Constitution Act, 1982, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action support equitable access to health care and the highest attainable standard of health for First Nations peoples.
- B. First Nations peoples continue to experience significant disparities in health outcomes and continue to raise concerns regarding racism, discrimination, barriers to care, delayed treatment, and accountability within health systems across Canada.
- C. Healthcare delivery, regulation, and investigation of clinical incidents fall primarily under provincial and territorial jurisdiction; however, First Nations continue to experience inequities in accessing culturally safe and equitable healthcare services, highlighting the need for collaboration among First Nations, federal, provincial, and territorial partners to improve patient experiences and outcomes.
- D. Jaali Sutherland-Weenie was a young First Nations mother who tragically lost her life on April 26, 2026, after seeking medical care while in the late stages of pregnancy. Her death has prompted widespread concern among First Nations regarding patient safety, equitable access to care, accountability, and whether systemic barriers continue to contribute to adverse health outcomes experienced by First Nations patients and families.
- E. The concerns raised by the Sutherland-Weenie family have contributed to broader national discussions regarding patterns in experiences of First Nations patients and families seeking care within Canadian health systems and the challenges many face in obtaining timely accountability, and meaningful participation in review processes.

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

1. Express support for the Sutherland-Weenie family in their pursuit of truth, healing, accountability, and meaningful systemic change arising from the circumstances surrounding the death of Jaali Sutherland-Weenie and express support in principle for the objectives of Jaali's Calls to Action as an important contribution to advancing culturally safe, equitable, and patient-centered healthcare.
2. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to work with First Nations partners, and federal, provincial, and territorial governments to better understand the national scope of systemic barriers, racism,

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discrimination, and inequitable treatment affecting First Nations women and families in healthcare systems, and to provide recommendations to First Nations-in-Assembly to advance patient safety, accountability, and culturally safe care.

3. Support the advancement of patient safety and culturally safe care through collaboration with First Nations partners and existing initiatives, including the Cultural Safety and Humility Standard and its provisions relating to People-Centered Care, and promote culturally appropriate approaches that support First Nations individuals and families in navigating healthcare systems and accountability processes.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 51 / 2026

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TITLE:	Protecting First Nations Environment, Sovereignty, Knowledge Systems, and Data in the Era of Artificial Intelligence
SUBJECT:	Environment, Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Izaiah Swampy, Samson Cree Nation, Maskwacis, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Sheldon Sunshine, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, AB

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
- B. The UN Declaration, which the Government of Canada has committed to implement, affirms the right of Indigenous Peoples to maintain, control, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and intellectual property
- C. Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are advancing rapidly, with AI systems frequently scraping and aggregating First Nations languages, traditional knowledge, and oral histories without Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC);
- D. There is a high risk that unregulated AI can become another tool that reinforces systemic racism, bias, and extractive colonial systems, and threatens Indigenous data sovereignty;
- E. The federal government has pursued legislative frameworks, such as the Artificial Intelligence and Data Act, without adequate, nation-to-nation consultation with First Nations, leading to serious deficiencies in recognizing collective Indigenous rights and the Ownership Control Access and Possession (OCAP®) principles;
- F. The Chiefs of Ontario and the First Nations Technology Council have recognized the urgent need for a coordinated, rights-based approach to AI to ensure First Nations are drivers of technology development rather than exploited subjects.
- G. 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.

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- H. AI carries significant environmental impacts through the rapid expansion of data centers, increased electricity demand, water consumption for cooling systems, and the extraction of critical minerals needed for technology infrastructure.
- I. The federal government is moving forward on building “sovereign, energy efficient data centers”, Canada has stated that they are planning investment in building “AI compute” infrastructure to help businesses in AI, in order to create long-term economic growth.
- J. Through Budget 2025, the Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation indicated they will work with the industry to identify AI Infrastructure projects and enter into Memoranda of Understanding with project proponents.
- K. The Public Interest Advocacy Center has brought forward the issue that there are no regulatory standards to monitor or measure the risks of these AI centers.
- L. For First Nations, these impacts matter as many large-scale infrastructure projects tied to AI development including mining, energy projects, transmission corridors, and data center construction can directly affect Treaty lands, waters, and traditional territories.

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

1. Request that the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) publicly oppose the expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) data centers onto Treaty lands, without First Nations consent or invitation.
2. Direct the AFN to further advocate for the Duty to Consult to ensure the protection of Treaty lands and that technological development does not come at the expense of First Nations rights, jurisdiction, water, environmental stewardship responsibilities, or the long-term health of lands and resources that support future generations.
3. Direct the AFN to advocate that First Nations safe drinking water on reserves is protected.
4. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to co-develop with First Nations strict, binding regulatory frameworks to ensure all AI developers and cloud providers uphold the Ownership Control Access and Possession (OCAP®) principles and respect First Nations inherent jurisdiction over their data and cultural knowledge.
5. Direct the AFN to advocate for sustained, long-term federal investments in First Nations-led digital infrastructure, AI literacy, and sovereign compute capacity so that communities are empowered to utilize AI safely on their own terms.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 52 / 2026

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TITLE:	Call on Canadian National Railway to Negotiate with First Nations Affected by Rail Lines
SUBJECT:	Consultation, Reconciliation
MOVED BY:	Chief Richard Bruyere, Couchiching First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Marcel Medicine Horton, Rainy River First Nations, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The Canadian National Railway Company (CN) owns and operates the longest railway system on Turtle Island (North America), which it has used to transport freight for more than 100 years through Canada.
- B. Many of CN's rail lines were built and continue to operate through the traditional territories and reserve lands of First Nations across Canada (the "Impacted First Nations").
- C. According to CN's Indigenous Relations Policy, CN's network spans nearly 20,000 miles across Turtle Island and operates within or adjacent to nearly 230 reserve lands of more than 120 First Nations and Métis communities.
- D. In developing the railway network and placing the rail lines, the Government of Canada and CN did not meaningfully consult with or fairly compensate the Impacted First Nations.
- E. CN has acknowledged the history of railways and the role they played as instruments of colonial policies, as well as the intergenerational economic, cultural and social effects that these policies have had on First Nations.
- F. CN has expressed its commitment to engaging and fostering strong, respectful and mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous Peoples through its Indigenous Relations Policy.
- G. CN has expressed its commitment to economic reconciliation, cultural awareness, and environmental stewardship and sustainability, while citing its reverence for the Seven Grandfather Teachings, in its Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-2027.
- H. The Government of Canada previously owned CN as a Crown corporation but sold CN to private investors in 1995 (the "CN Sale").
- I. During the CN Sale and privatization of CN, CN entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Canada, which included language about the respective liabilities of the Government of Canada and CN with regards to claims made by the Impacted First Nations.
- J. Since CN signed the MOU, and despite the CN's Indigenous Relations Policy and Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-2027, CN has consistently relied on the MOU to negate its responsibilities to engage in fair and meaningful negotiations with the Impacted First Nations.

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- K. CN consistently asserts that is not liable for any claims made by the Impacted First Nations, creating a barrier to reconciliation between CN and the Impacted First Nations.
- L. Many of the Impacted First Nations seek to work with CN to establish a long-term and mutually beneficial relationship to create an open dialogue and advance the goal of reconciliation, in the forms including but not limited to relationship agreements and fiscal arrangements.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to immediately:
 - a. Engage in an open and collaborative dialogue with the First Nations who would like to discuss, address, and resolve issues and concerns that have arisen as a result of the construction and operation of CN rail lines through their traditional territories and reserve lands;
 - b. Negotiate and enter into formal agreements with those impacted First Nations to promote sustainable and mutually beneficial opportunities as part of broader reconciliation efforts; and
 - c. Fully implement its commitments under its Indigenous Relations Policy and Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan, in the spirit of the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

DRAFT EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
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TITLE: Upholding Truth and Criminalizing Indian Residential School Denialism

SUBJECT: Indian Residential School Denialism

MOVED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Sheldon Kent, Black River First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 15 (2): States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.
 - ii. 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.
- B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) documented that the Indian Residential School (IRS) system amounted to cultural genocide, where thousands of children were forcibly taken from their families, subjected to abuse, and many never returned home.
- C. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has consistently reaffirmed its position that denial, minimization, or justification of these truths constitutes a harmful form of anti-First Nations racism and an offence against Survivors, families, and communities.
- D. Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Combatting Hate Act)*, is nearing Royal Assent; however, First Nations remain concerned that IRS denialism and the protection of sacred, burial, and memorial sites are not adequately addressed in federal law. A proposed amendment to address the willful promotion of hatred through IRS denialism was not adopted. The Bill is expected to proceed without addressing key priorities raised by First Nations.
- E. AFN Resolution 85/2024, *Support Bill C-413 to Provide Protection Against Anti-Indigenous Hate Speech and Residential School Denialism*, mandates the AFN to support Bill C-413: *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (promotion of hatred against Indigenous peoples)* and to call upon Canada to prioritize Bill C-413 in the parliamentary process.
- F. AFN Resolution 34/2025, *Calling on Canada to Criminalize Indian Residential School Denialism* calls upon the Government of Canada to explicitly criminalize the public condoning, denial, justification, or minimization of the Indian Residential School system, classifying such rhetoric as hate speech against First Nations.
- G. First Nations across Canada continue to face pervasive and systemic racism, including a deeply disturbing rise in IRS denialism, where the public condoning, denying, or minimizing of the IRS system and the tragic

DRAFT EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

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reality of unmarked graves perpetuates harm, retraumatization, and discrimination, and constitutes hate speech against First Nations and Survivors.

- H. IRS denialism continues to harm Survivors, families, and communities, while the lack of clear protections for sacred and burial sites remains a significant concern for First Nations across the country.

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

1. Reaffirm the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) call for the Government of Canada to amend Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Combatting Hate Act)*, or introduce stand-alone legislation, to criminalize the public condoning, denial, justification, or minimization of Indian Residential School denialism as a form of hate speech against First Nations.
2. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada and all political leaders to take concrete measures to advance public awareness and education, including curriculum and public campaigns on the truth of Indian Residential Schools and other colonial policies.
3. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to co-develop legislation with First Nations to address Indian Residential School denialism and strengthen legal protections for sacred, burial, memorial, and former Residential School sites, including enforcement mechanisms and penalties for desecration or denialism linked to those sites.
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for government-sponsored legislation addressing Indian Residential School denialism with the Prime Minister and relevant federal ministers.
5. Direct the AFN to work with survivors, Elders, and First Nations leadership to ensure any legislation is First Nations-led, rights-based, and legally and constitutionally sound, and protects the rights of First Nations and land defenders.
6. Direct the AFN to advocate for any future hate-related legislative reforms to be developed in partnership with First Nations and to include clear safeguards protecting the rights of First Nations, advocates, and land defenders engaged in legitimate advocacy and the defense of Treaty and inherent rights.