



Upholding Rights, Empowering Nations

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern. The AFN hosts two Assemblies a year where mandates and directives for the organization are established through resolutions directed and supported by the First-Nations-in-Assembly (elected Chiefs or proxies from member First Nations).

In addition to the direction provided by Chiefs of each member First Nation, the AFN is guided by an Executive Committee consisting of an elected National Chief and Regional Chiefs from each province and territory. Representatives from five national councils (Knowledge Keepers, Youth, Veterans, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and Women) support and guide the decisions of the Executive Committee.

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National
Chief's
Report



National Chief's Report



AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak

It has been a great honour to serve as your National Chief since being elected in 2023.

As a national advocacy organization, the Assembly of First Nations advances Inherent and Treaty Rights through the co-development of policy, public education, and legislation. My role is to advocate for First Nations priorities, as directed by Chiefs, to protect these collective and inherent rights.

And we can't do this work without a strong AFN National Executive. I want to personally thank all the Regional Chiefs, our AFN staff, Elders, my family, and Chiefs from coast to coast to coast for your prayers and thoughtful advice over the past couple of years.

It has been a busy first half of 2026. A full session of Parliament has just wrapped up. We welcomed the new Governor General in June after visiting King Charles III in May. Above all, we have had the honour of being invited to many First Nation communities across this country.

SOVEREIGNTY

A common theme throughout has been sovereignty. Canada's sovereignty is under threat from the south. From the north. And thanks to provincial politicians in Alberta and Quebec, also from within.

In January, we were in the Arctic with the Dene, Inuvialuit, and Cree peoples. We talked about the sovereignty of this beautiful country and our eastern neighbours - the Greenlandic Inuit.

Together, we condemned Trump's reckless threats to purchase and control Greenland – and his illegal threats against this country.

In February, we spent time with Chiefs in Alberta, openly discussing the prospects of the referendum on separation later this year.

We made it clear that any proposal to separate any province or territory from Canada is fundamentally illegitimate and unconstitutional without the explicit, prior, informed, and collective consent of the First Nations.

Albertans need to know that if they vote to separate from Canada, they can't take the land with them.

In April we travelled to the United Nations in support of BC Chiefs fighting against the provincial government's plan to roll back legislated rights. By standing up for the UN Declaration, BC Chiefs were standing up for unity.





National Chief's Report



LEADING THE WAY

First Nations are leading the way on so many things in Canada, from all walks of life and all regions of the country. We have highlighted examples in this report.

The Toronto Maple Leafs added to that list last month by drafting Yukon's First Nation star Gavin McKenna first in the NHL draft. We congratulate Gavin and his family and wish him all the best in the years ahead.

We know this is a difficult time in this country's history. But First Nations have always stood for Canada in difficult times.

The War of 1812. Two World Wars. The Korean War. Two Quebec referendums. Afghanistan. The pandemic. Now is another one of those times.

First Nations are fundamental partners in this country. Our ancestors welcomed settlers to these shores. But we have also learned through hard experience that if we don't mobilize to protect our rights, no one else will.

Today, our rights are being threatened in new ways. But we are not afraid. Far from it. First Nations across this country are stronger than ever.

We are ready to unlock economic growth that will drive Canada's collective prosperity for the next century – but not at the expense of our rights or the Crown's legal obligations to our people.

UNITY

When I ran for National Chief over two years ago now, unity was a central piece of my campaign. In the years prior, the AFN experienced some difficult times.

But, when we see First Nations leading the way on so many issues across society, I know we are making progress. When Canadians stop me on the street and in airports to say encouraging words, I know we are making progress.

As National Chief, it is my honour to be your advocate, standing with you to advance your priorities.

Through it all, we will be there with you – together – just as our Elders and ancestors wanted. By strengthening our relations, united, we can achieve anything!

Chi Miigwetch!

Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak





National Chief's Report

ACTIVITY REPORT

(September 2025 – June 2026)

TOP ISSUES

Below are some of the top issues we have been focused on since our last report:

First Nations Clean Water Act

At the end of June, the federal government finally released an updated First Nations Clean Water Act and \$4 billion investment in First Nation water systems. While this funding won't close the gap, it will be put to good use by First Nations that are struggling.

Unfortunately, no sum will distract from significant challenges we see in a Bill that appears to be a step back from the progress we had made with Parliament in 2024. Instead of clearly designating the right to clean water, this Bill offers a vague policy to further the 'progressive realization' of the right to clean water for First Nations.

We also see weak provisions for source water protection and a limited definition of First Nation lands. Amendments will be required this fall to honour the Crown.

Bill S-2: An Act to amend the Indian Act

The AFN reaffirmed support for eliminating the Indian Act's discriminatory second-generation cut-off and ensuring First Nations have authority to determine their own citizenship. The original Bill did not go far enough to completely end gender-based discrimination. As a result, the federal Minister is considering amendments.

We have called for a statutory commitment to provide sustainable funding to support First Nations in implementing any new registration entitlements and encouraged Canada to work with First Nations to co-develop a national implementation framework once the Bill passes.

Federal Budget

Introduced in November, the 2025 federal budget represented a missed opportunity for First Nations and Canada. While we successfully protected the \$47 billion we negotiated with the previous government for long-term child welfare reform, many First Nations programs were scaled back or eliminated.





National Chief's Report

Sadly, as First Nation budgets were cut, provincial governments received a 5% funding increase, guaranteeing even larger service gaps between First Nations and non-Indigenous Canadians.

With their spring's Economic Update, Canada attempted to make up for some of these cuts with over \$4 billion in new investments for First Nations health and social services. While we welcome this reconsideration, significant nation-building investments are needed to close the discriminatory infrastructure gaps that hold back the potential of the Canadian economy.

During our June appearance before the House of Commons Finance Committee, we called on Canada to make Budget 2026 a vehicle for closing the socio-economic and infrastructure gaps facing First Nations and making significant investments in First Nation schools and higher education. Every \$1 invested to close the First Nations infrastructure gap returns \$1.80 to the Canadian economy.

Child Welfare Settlement and Reform

In March, the AFN announced over \$650 million in compensation paid to thousands of claimants who had experienced discrimination under Canada's Child and Family Services program. As Regional Chief for Manitoba in 2023, we negotiated a \$23 billion settlement in response to a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling.

The application portal opened for claimants in March 2025. While no amount of money will erase the harms to these children and families, these settlement funds are an acknowledgment of Canada's discriminatory policies and their impacts.

With regard to long-term child welfare reform, we are united in our support for the Ontario Final Agreement and encouraged that the federal government started rolling out the \$8.5 billion multi-year funding agreement that delivers justice, respect, and safety to First Nations children and families across Ontario.

First Ministers Meeting on First Nations Issues

At December's Special Chiefs Assembly, Prime Minister Carney confirmed his support for a First Nations-First Ministers Meeting in 2026. This confirmation is a result of the hard-fought commitment we secured from the Premiers after last summer's Assembly.

The Prime Minister also made it clear that we will lead the agenda. This fall gathering has the potential to be a historic event for First Nations to bring forward important matters with the Prime Minister, and provincial and territorial leaders.

Since the Prime Minister's announcement, we have hosted Virtual Town Halls for Chiefs and technicians to discuss priorities and learn about the planning needed to make the national meeting a success. The AFN has set up a micro-site to provide information about the proposed planning of the meeting and the history of similar discussions between First Nations and Canada.





National Chief's Report



Policing and Public Safety

We have continued to demand First Nations policing be recognized as an essential service rooted in our jurisdiction and inherent, Treaty and human rights.

With Canada's Auditor General, we have highlighted systemic underfunding and discriminatory administration of the First Nations Policing Program, emphasized the need for equitable funding and urged all orders of government to work with First Nations to implement legislative reforms that strengthen community safety and support First Nations-led policing.

Government Surveillance

In April, media reports exposed details of organized RCMP surveillance and harassment operations that have been targeting First Nations leadership going back to the 1970s. In response, the AFN called for an inquiry that includes the full unredacted release of all documents related to the surveillance operations and an investigation of the RCMP program responsible.

First Nations are not enemies of the state. We are First Nations and the first partners in this land. It is shocking and unacceptable that Canada would target, harass, and spy on our people who were standing up for their rights and protecting their lands.

We lift up our leaders who stood tall in the face of this harassment and surveillance. This is another chapter in Canada's colonial history of oppressing and dividing First Nations, instead of working with us to build a stronger country.

Natural Resource Development

In May, without any consultation, the federal government presented a Discussion Paper that included proposals to significantly alter Canada's established environmental assessment process for large-scale resource development and infrastructure projects. We spoke out against this approach and the government backed off.

Unlike last year's Bill C-5 experience, federal Ministers agreed to provide more time for First Nations – and all Canadians – to consider the impact of these changes on our environment. The AFN will present our response to these proposals in July.

In October, we made a presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources because Canada has identified critical minerals as a national priority to meet global demand for clean energy transition, defense, and new technology applications.

We are calling for Canada's critical mineral policy to be grounded in the implementation of the UN Declaration because First Nations have been disproportionately impacted by these extractive activities for generations. Our water supplies have been polluted. Rights holders have been excluded from revenue sharing agreements and decisions impacting their lands and rights.

Well, not anymore. Poverty is no longer an option. In this new Canada, First Nations are developing strategies that reflect our priorities, our leadership, and our approach to sustainable resource development.



National Chief's Report

Canada-US Relations

With everything going on with the status of the North American free trade agreement, we were very pleased to renew our Declaration of Kinship and Cooperation with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in support of unity, cooperation, and mutual support among the Indigenous Peoples and Nations of North America.

The Declaration was signed in March during NCAI's Enterprise Development's Reservation Economic Summit. Reflecting the enduring ties among Indigenous Nations across North America, the Agreement strengthens collaboration on shared priorities, including international advocacy, sovereignty, and engagement with future generations of First Nation leaders.

The AFN also responded in March after Canada issued a Travel Advisory urging First Nations to carry a Canadian passport for border crossing into the United States. The Advisory was directly counter to the inherent right of First Nations to cross the border as affirmed in Article III of the 1794 Jay Treaty.

Advising the use of Canadian passports undermines our inherent right and the principle of self-determination. We called on Canada to work with the Jay Treaty Border Alliance to resolve these border issues with the United States in a manner that respects the nation-to-nation relationship and our inherent and Treaty rights.

Repatriation of Artifacts from the Vatican

Immediately after the AFN's December Special Chiefs Assembly, we led a delegation of Elders and youth to welcome artifacts back to Canada that had been in the Vatican Museum in Rome for generations.

Months later, the AFN hosted an event at the Canadian Museum of History to mark the unveiling of these repatriated artifacts from the Vatican and laid out a process that will return these ancient relatives back to their home communities.

In the meantime, we will continue to advocate for more items to be returned from the Vatican and other world institutions to the Nations where they properly belong.

King Charles III

The return of First Nation artifacts was one of the topics we discussed during our May audience with King Charles III in London. As Treaty partners, the Crown and First Nations have perpetual obligations to uphold under the sacred protocols of Treaty. First Nations leadership again communicated to the King the international status of the Crown-First Nations Treaty relationship.





National Chief's Report

No third party can interfere or change the sacred Treaty relationship or change how First Nations choose to relate to Canada or to the Crown. We are grateful to His Majesty for the opportunity to meet him. First Nations have always been honourable Treaty partners. We look forward to an ongoing relationship grounded in Treaty, as well as free prior, and informed consent, and the right to self-determination.

ACTIVITY REPORT

As we have worked through these and other top issues over the past year, we have been honoured to visit communities, attend events and advocate for resolutions approved by Chiefs in Assembly, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice.

September 2025

- AFN Annual General Assembly on Treaty One Territory in Winnipeg. Rescheduled from July as many First Nations were dealing with forest fires and evacuations over the summer
- Whitebear First Nation 150th Anniversary pow wow and Saskatoon Tribal Council ECM
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day March and pow wow with Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Kyra Wilson and other leaders at the Forks



"Today is a day to honour all survivors of the residential schools and to commit ourselves to the actions and investments needed to build strong First Nations and a stronger country for all of us. Reconciliation requires a relationship with the Crown built on mutual respect and full implementation of our Treaty rights, inherent rights, title and jurisdiction."

October 2025

- Presentations to Parliamentary Committees:
 - Bill S-2 - Indian Act (Senate)
 - Policing and Public Safety (House of Commons)
 - Critical Minerals (House of Commons)

"First Nations rights are not discretionary. Parliament has a responsibility to ensure that legislation, federal spending decisions, and major national initiatives respect First Nations inherent, Treaty, and Aboriginal rights, and are developed in partnership with Rights Holders."



National Chief's Report



November 2025

- Address SPARK Indigenous Energy Summit in Alberta
- 50th Anniversary Celebration of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement in Mistissini
- Attawapiskat First Nation community visit in Ontario
- Keynote address to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce
- Travel to Vatican to hold ceremony for First Nation artifacts

December 2025

- Special Chiefs Assembly on unceded Algonquin territory in Ottawa. Thousands of delegates gathered to approve 36 resolutions and participate in panels with several Ministers. Prime Minister Carney attended
- Supported Joey Toussaint at his court-assisted hearing and called on Correctional Service Canada and the Parole Board to respect the rights and dignity of First Nations
- Arrival of First Nation artifacts from Vatican in Montreal

January 2026

- Pimicikamak Cree Nation Community Visit in Manitoba
- 55th Dene National Assembly in Fort Good Hope, NWT
- Address to Southern Chiefs of Manitoba Chief Summit (Long Plain First Nation)
- Commemoration of Elijah Harper's 1995 Sacred Assembly in Winnipeg

February 2026

- Unveiling ceremony for First Nations artifacts returned from the Vatican
- Address AFN Natural Resources Forum in Calgary
- Return of Parliament
- Address AFN Education Forum in Vancouver
- Assembly of Treaty Chiefs meeting in Nova Scotia





National Chief's Report

March 2026

- Address BC AFN Annual General Assembly in Penticton
- Community tour and meeting with leadership, Elders and community members of Kashechewan First Nations in Ontario
- Federal budget presentation to House of Commons Finance Committee

April 2026

- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to make interventions on the theme *Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' health, including in the context of conflict*. While at the UN, held meetings with:
 - National Congress of American Indians to discuss advancing work around the renewed AFN-NCAI Declaration of Kinship
 - UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to discuss issues of concern to First Nations, including clean water, policing, First Nations experience with the Justice system in Canada, and recent raids on cannabis dispensaries in Nova Scotia
- Address First Nations Major Project Coalition conference in Toronto
- AFN FMM Virtual Town Hall with Chiefs
- Spring Economic Update 2026 presented in Parliament

May 2026

- Mi'kmaw community visit and Eskasoni Chief/Council meeting in Nova Scotia to discuss community health care access, policing, addictions, mental health and cannabis regulation
- Presentation to House of Commons Committee regarding Bill S-2
- Mowachaht Muchlaht community tour and meeting with Chief and Council in BC
- Virtual Town Hall with Chiefs regarding fall First Ministers meeting

June 2026

- NC and delegation audience with King Charles III
- Address Chiefs of Ontario Annual General Assembly in Rama First Nation
- Swearing in new Governor General Louise Arbour
- Address Council of Yukon First Nations Annual General Assembly address
- Presentation to House of Commons Finance Committee regarding 2026 Budget
- Address BC First Nations Summit



The background of the page features a dense collection of various flags, including the Canadian flag, which are slightly out of focus. On the right side, there is a vertical decorative border with a purple-to-blue gradient. This border includes a jagged, sawtooth-like pattern and intricate, stylized indigenous-style designs at the top and bottom.

Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Andrea Paul, Nova Scotia

Kwe' Nitaptut! Greetings to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Chiefs, Chiefs and Proxies, Knowledge Keepers, Women's Council, Veterans, Youth, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council. I am proud to extend the well wishes from my Chiefs and Councils from Mi'kma'ki.

Introduction:

As Regional Chief for Nova Scotia, I am honoured to provide a six-month update on our regional activities. The Mi'kmaq Chiefs and Councils, along with our Grand Chief, Kji Keptin, and District Chiefs are working steadily and collaboratively on issues impacting our region and Nation. The Nova Scotia region is working on addressing the funding short falls, legislative changes, and continue to advocate and support those most impacted, our people.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

The Nova Scotia Regional Office secured funding to deliver the following activities:

- **Grand Council Revitalization Project in collaboration with Senator Paul (PJ) Prosper's office** – this project was initiated in the summer of 2024 and we've hosted 3 gatherings. We've secured funding for the next five years to support Grand Council in Mi'kma'ki with governance revitalization.
- **Strategic Planning and Election Code for Nova Scotia Regional Chief Office** – this project was completed this past May and was supported by the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and Executive Directors to align the Regional Chief's Office with the priorities of the Nation. The Election Code was reviewed and will be ratified in July.
- **Leadership Wellness Gathering** – In February, the Regional Chief's Office hosted a gathering for the Chiefs with a focus on wellness and support. The Gathering was hosted in Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre. Thank you to Tyler Sack, Pipe Carrier for his teachings and bringing leadership together in a beautiful, safe and traditionally grounded ceremony. After lunch, we were joined by Grandmothers, Jane Meader and Lottie Johnson in a Naming Ceremony where each of the Chiefs were given their spiritual names. It truly was a beautiful and memorable day for all.
- **Leadership Gathering** – In May, our office in collaboration with Dalhousie University, hosted a two-day Leadership Gathering with Chiefs, Councillors, and Executive Directors. This was an opportunity to gather, network, collaborate and hear from different organizations on some of the great work that is happening in our region.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

Wela'liek to the Late Patsy-Paul Martin, Knowledge Keeper, Educator, Language Warrior, Spiritual Leader who opened our mornings with a Smudge Ceremony and Prayer. We will miss Elder Patsy very much and her loss was felt all over Mi'kma'ki.

Wela'liek to Kji Saqmaq for opening and closing our days with Prayer. We appreciate you so much Grand Chief.

Thank you to National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak and District Chief Dr. Sherry Pictou for being our Keynote Speakers for each day. Your messages were well received and appreciated. Thank you to our Master of Ceremonies, Graham Marshall, and to all of our presenters, vendors, and organizations for donating door prizes, cultural showcase presenters, Eastern Eagle and Alan Sylliboy & the Thundermakers, Debert Hospitality Centre, Delphine Gould, Owen Gould, Heidi Weigand and team. Thank you all for all your support.

Honouring the Peace and Friendship Treaties:

Anniversary of the 1726 Peace and Friendship Treaty was held on June 4, 2026, at Fort Anne, Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia. This was a very important and historical event that celebrated culture, drumming, music, language, and remembrance of our Treaty relationship.

Regional Issues:

The most significant Nova Scotia legislative and policy developments affecting Mi'kmaq and First Nations include Bill 127 and restrictions on land protection activities, renewed discussions on resource development such as uranium and fracking, ongoing disputes over Mi'kmaw cannabis jurisdiction, significant cuts to Mi'kmaw-specific programs in the provincial budget, and continued concerns regarding the Province's approach to consultation and treaty implementation. Across all of these issues, the common theme remains the need for meaningful consultation, recognition of treaty rights, and respect for Mi'kmaw self-determination and governance.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #1: National Fisheries Committee

As a Co-Chair for the National Fisheries Committee (NFC) and being from Nova Scotia, I've been interested in the Wild Atlantic Salmon renewal announcement made as part of the Force of Nature investment in the federal budget. This is in part what First Nations have asked the AFN to advocate for on Resolution 23/2024, *First Nations Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Approaches*. There is expensive restoration, conservation and protection work that needs to be done to save Wild Atlantic Salmon in their home waters and I am heartened to know that First Nations remain engaged and lead these initiatives.

All fishermen are feeling the pinch in dropping Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Newfoundland snow crab that saw a 3% drop, zero increase for Atlantic lobster, and more North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) vessel restrictions. The NFC remains watchful of re-opened fisheries that have not fairly considered First Nations inherent rights fisheries like in the case of Northern Cod in Newfoundland.

I am relieved to see that the 2026 fishery season has been more peaceful than previous years. The NFC is closely watching how the major project coalition process affects First Nations rights as they interact with the Minister of Fisheries discretionary powers under the *Fisheries Act*.

National Portfolio #2: Chiefs Committee on Languages

The AFN Languages and Learning Sector advocates for long-term, sustainable, consistent, and appropriate approaches to support First Nations in recovering, reclaiming, revitalizing, maintaining, strengthening, and normalizing First Nations languages through the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act* (ILA).

The Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) provides recommendations to advance advocacy and support mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly.

Key Accomplishments:

The AFN advanced key priorities in language revitalization and supporting implementation of the First Nations National Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL).

In 2025-2026, the Sector held two meetings with the CCOL and the Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL) to gather comprehensive recommendations for the Independent Review of the ILA and to continue implementing the CCOL Strategic Plan and Work Plan. The Sector also meets bi-weekly with the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) on to advance the First Nations Languages Funding Model.

The Sector remains an active member of the Joint Implementation Steering Committee (JISC), alongside Inuit Tapiriit





Regional Chiefs' Reports

Kanatami and the Métis National Council, to support effective ILA implementation and inform recommendations for the Independent Review process. Before and after the Independent Review's launch in October 2025, the AFN advocated for a First Nations expert to lead the process. National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak met with the former Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, Steven Guilbeault, and met with the current Minister, Marc Miller, to assert that First Nations are best equipped to lead the review of the ILA, given their linguistic diversity and share of the population.

The AFN continues to advance ILA priorities. In 2025-2026, it contributed to the evaluation of the Indigenous Languages Program, ensuring that the evaluation's design was respectful and meaningful for First Nations. This evaluation will continue into 2026-2027, with the AFN monitoring to ensure full First Nations engagement.

In the AFN's 2026 Pre-Budget Submission, the AFN calls upon the Government of Canada to invest \$233 million over five years to support Section 8 and 9 agreements, transition to ongoing programmatic funding, and fund all proposals submitted to the Indigenous Languages Component through DCH.

In February 2026, the Sector hosted the 2026 AFN Education Forum: *Voices for Tomorrow, Lifting our Nations Through Lifelong Learning*, bringing together language and education experts to share best practices, learn from regional advancements, and strategize on shared language revitalization and educational aspirations. A full day was dedicated to celebrating the IDIL, featuring keynote speakers, performers, a multi-generational panel, and specialized presentations to share and celebrate progress. The Forum welcomed approximately 750 delegates.

The Sector continues research to strengthen the ILA and other Canadian law and policy to respect and uphold First Nations Languages. In response to AFN Resolution 19/2024, *First Nations Languages Regional Allocation Formula*, the AFN worked with external consultants to assess data sources for the factors to inform First Nations language revitalization needs at the local, regional, and national levels.

The Sector also builds the case for First Nations language revitalization through networks such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Global Task Force on the IDIL and by participating in international meetings. The Sector further advances its engagement networks at various conferences, including a presentation in February 2026 at the Keeping Our Languages Alive Conference in Saskatoon, SK, on the IDIL.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #3: International Advocacy

As part of Canada's Delegation, I attended the 70th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) from March 9 - 13, 2026, in New York. I spoke as a panelist at the Mexico Side Event, *Access to Justice for Indigenous Women*, to highlight that access to justice for First Nations women requires early, preventative protections, meaningful decision-making power, and systems designed with their leadership - not imposed afterward.

I am also happy to report that I attended the United Nations Oceans Conference in Nice, France in June, 2025. During the conference, I delivered a presentation at a side event co-organized by AFN as part of the Indigenous Oceans Forum and participated in a bilateral meeting with Deputy Minister Annet Gibbons to raise issues related to Marine Conservation and Fisheries. I also attended several side sessions, including sessions on youth and women's leadership in oceans governance.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

As we move forward, several priorities will continue to require our collective attention and advocacy. Ongoing discussions related to treaty implementation, self-determination, resource development, economic reconciliation, child and family well-being, health transformation, language revitalization, and major project development will shape the landscape in which our Nations operate.

At the national level, I will continue to advocate for policies, legislation, and investments that recognize and uphold the rights of First Nations while ensuring that the unique perspectives and priorities of Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia are reflected in national discussions and decision-making processes.

Closer to home, it will be important to monitor provincial legislative and policy developments, particularly those with potential implications for treaty rights, consultation processes, economic opportunities, and the protection of lands and waters. Strengthening Nation-to-Nation relationships and advancing meaningful engagement with all levels of government will remain a key focus.

I also look forward to continuing to support opportunities that strengthen leadership development, youth engagement, language and cultural revitalization, economic growth, and community wellness. By working collaboratively and remaining united in our advocacy efforts, we can continue to advance the priorities identified by our Chiefs and communities while building a stronger future for the next seven generations.

Together, we will continue to uphold our responsibilities to our people, our treaties, and Mi'kma'ki.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

Conclusion

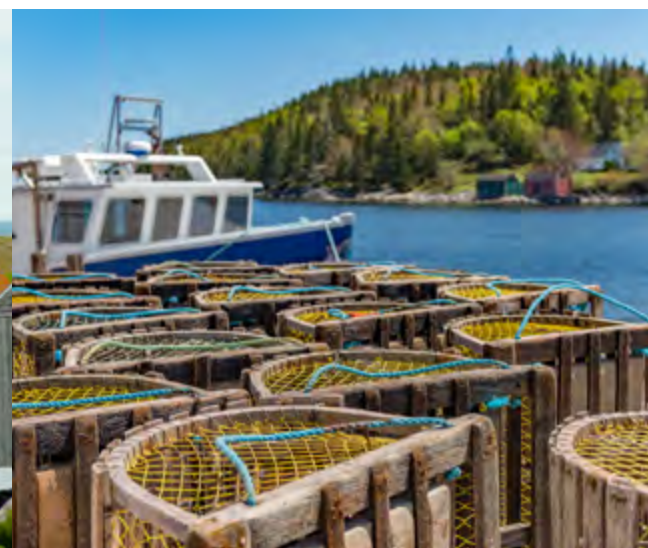
In closing, the past reporting period has highlighted both the challenges and opportunities facing our Nations. Across discussions on treaty implementation, fisheries, health, language revitalization, economic development, major projects, and emerging provincial and federal legislation, one message remains clear: the voices of our Chiefs, communities, Elders, youth, and citizens must continue to guide the path forward.

As Regional Chief, I remain committed to advocating for the rights, priorities, and interests of Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia at national tables while ensuring that the perspectives of our Nations are heard and respected. Our strength continues to come from working together, sharing knowledge, supporting one another, and advancing our collective vision for our people and future generations.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Chiefs, leadership teams, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, partners, and community members who continue to dedicate their time, expertise, and passion to strengthening our Nations. Together, we will continue to uphold our treaty rights, protect our lands and waters, revitalize our language and culture, and advance the well-being of our people.

Wela'liog
Regional Chief Andrea Paul,
Nova Scotia

The path ahead will require vigilance, unity, and continued advocacy, but it will also present opportunities to strengthen our Nations, advance our rights, and ensure that Mi'kmaq voices remain at the forefront of decisions that impact our people and territories.





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, Newfoundland Region

I am honoured to bring greetings from the traditional, unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland. Our region's representatives are pleased to participate in important discussions advancing the interests of First Nations people across the country. I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone to the 48th AFN Annual General Assembly as we gather on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin peoples in Ottawa.

Introduction:

Greetings Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, AFN staff, and distinguished guests. The AFN Newfoundland regional office continues to work to advance important issues for our Region as well as working to advance National priorities. This coming Fall will mark three years that the Newfoundland Region had a Regional Chief. Previously, our Region was combined with Nova Scotia. It has been a great pleasure to serve as our regional representative with the Assembly of First Nations during this past term and I look forward to what the future has in store for our Region.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

For the past several months public presentations were held throughout the province to engage member First Nations and their membership. Presentations addressed the importance of Indigenous rights and their history within the province. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, resulting in considerable advancement in dialogue about *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA). The UNDA Coordinator also held a virtual event for those unable to attend in person, and the presentation has since been added to the Regional Office website. Several senior provincial officials have viewed the presentation; next steps include meetings with the new Premier and Cabinet Ministers to promote the province's adoption of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This fall, the UNDA presentation will also be introduced into the provincial school system.

Water, Nature and Climate Change Our coordinators for water, climate change, and nature have been conducting research on issues facing our communities. As our region has only one reserve, coordinators have been navigating the challenges of provincial jurisdiction while formulating ways to coordinate activities to advance their portfolios. They have engaged with communities, conducted community visits, and participated in local and national conferences to bring information and knowledge back to our communities. Our coordinators are looking at a collaborative project to bring support to our communities.





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Issues of affordability are top of mind for our Region, not unlike other regions of Canada and indeed, globally. As cost-of-living challenges continue to evolve, there is an increase reliance on social programs, like foodbanks and social assistance. Geographic isolation magnifies these challenges for remote communities.

Safe, affordable, and accessibility housing remains a complex and challenging issue in our Region. There is a growing demand for housing units and housing programs that can provide funding for housing repairs. The ongoing housing crisis and challenges related to homelessness remain difficult issues, especially as the cost-of-living increases in our Province. In larger cities, there have been some efforts to address the housing crisis through new housing projects; while encouraging, these projects often come with the challenge of demand outpacing supply. Increased construction projects can create employment opportunities, but are sometimes associated with rising crime rates, negative environmental impacts, and create complex social issues. It is important that we advocate to resolve the crisis of housing and homelessness while maintaining and advancing cultural values.

One major victory in our region has come in addressing healthcare disparities for First Nations peoples in our province, particularly in the Region's capital city of St. John's. Through the combined efforts of the St. John's First Light Friendship Centre along with impassioned advocacy work from a group of medical students at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), that dream has been realized as the First Light Indigenous Health Clinic in St. John's will begin operations in the coming year. The clinic will provide wraparound services aiming to address housing needs and other challenges through a culturally safe and trauma-informed care approach. This move demonstrates a commitment from our provincial government toward improving medical outcomes for Indigenous peoples while also demonstrating the power of advocacy for those who were instrumental in making this vision a reality.

Despite the positive news regarding the clinic in St. John's, there remains many concerns related to healthcare in our Region, particularly for those in rural communities. A scarcity of family practitioners is one major area of concern, and a lack of mental health services is another. An estimated 130,000 residents of our province have no family doctor. Many among this number are Indigenous People. These issues disproportionately disadvantage Indigenous communities. Our member bands have increased their emphasis on unconventional approaches to improving mental wellness including crafting, physical activity, and social gatherings.



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Protecting the health of our community members is important, equally as important is protecting our community helpers. Our Region hosted two-day training sessions in violence prevention for volunteers and staff of our member bands. These individuals play an integral role in service delivery to our members, and these training sessions presented valuable opportunities to better understand the complexities and diverse needs of the populations they serve. Training included de-escalation techniques and promoting empathy for individuals dealing with substance use.

National Portfolio #1 – Housing and Infrastructure:

As the National Portfolio holder for Housing and Infrastructure and Co-Chair of the Chief's Committee on Housing and Infrastructure together with Chief Lance Haymond (Quebec), I take this opportunity

to thank the Chiefs, Technicians and AFN Staff who have participated in and support the work of the Chief's Committee. During the past year our advocacy at all levels of Government has brought significant attention to the areas of housing, infrastructure, the infrastructure gap, homelessness and water as national priorities.

Through direct letters to the Prime Minister, Federal Ministers, media engagement and participation in parliamentary process, we continue to press for urgent Federal action. It's unfortunate that the past two Federal budgets and the recent Spring Economic Update have provided very little in support of closing the infrastructure gap. The infrastructure gap has been discussed with several Ministers, including Minister Gull-Masty as recently as May 7 when the Minister attended a meeting of the Chief's Committee on Housing and Infrastructure held at the AFN office in Ottawa.

The Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI) continues to champion a future where First Nations have the housing, infrastructure, and investments needed to support thriving, self-determined communities. The AFN's recent update to the Closing the Infrastructure Gap costing report estimates the gap has grown from \$349.2 billion to \$376.1 billion since 2023, driven by a history of federal legislation, reserve creation, policies and funding that limit First Nations self-determination and self-reliance in the provision of housing and community infrastructure. These longstanding discriminatory constraints are compounded by rising construction costs, aging assets, population growth, inflation, United States tariffs, and climate-related impacts that severely undermine community wellness, public health, and environmental sustainability.

The AFN continues to raise concerns about looming cuts to funding for First Nations housing and infrastructure, including Budget 2022 investments in on-reserve housing slated to sunset in March 2027. Without renewed funding, First Nations housing programs will face a serious fiscal cliff while federal housing initiatives and strategies move forward without





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clear, distinctions-based commitments. The AFN is also advocating against unilateral changes to CMHC programs, including Section 95, that could reduce regional allocations for affordable rental housing on reserve.

In the summer of 2025, the Minister of Finance announced the need to cut allocations to federal departments by 15% over three years. The funding reduction to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) was set at 2.5 %. While this is a much-reduced number compared to other departments, this percentage represents a cut in funding to ISC of \$484 million. Our communities will likely be impacted by this reduction, and this further suggests that in the short term, we can anticipate little in the way of new funds to contribute to addressing housing needs and reducing the infrastructure gap.

Other recent advocacy has focused on Bill C-20, *Build Canada Homes* and the Indigenous Housing Strategy. In a recent meeting with the Minister of Indigenous Services, the AFN's received an unsatisfactory response to its calls for meaningful First Nations involvement in the Indigenous Housing Strategy. The AFN will continue pressing for sufficient time for rights-based engagement on the IHS while advocating for the federal government to fulfill its ongoing responsibilities to First Nations.



National Portfolio #2 - Accessibility:

Advancing the Accessibility file is one of my most deeply held commitments, and I am proud to report that our work is gaining momentum. First Nations-in-Assembly have given us a clear mandate through Resolution 71/2024, *Rejecting the Accessible Canada Act and Advancing Distinct First Nations Accessibility Legislation*, and we are delivering on it.

The focus of our 2026 work has been the planning of national virtual dialogue sessions in support of Resolution 71/2024, scheduled for fall 2026. Regions have been meaningfully engaged in shaping this process to ensure that leaders, service providers, and community members, including First Nation persons with disabilities, have a genuine voice in what comes next.

I was also pleased that the Director of Health, Cheyenne Joseph, recently attended the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure to provide an update on the Accessibility file. The synergistic work between accessibility, housing, and the health and well-being of First Nation persons with disabilities is substantial, and we must continue to work across portfolios to address it holistically.

This progress builds on the AFN's Shadow Report to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, submitted in February 2024, and the launch of the AFN Accessibility Hub of Excellence.

National Portfolio #3 – Management Committee:

The Management Committee together with the Committee Elder and senior staff members continues to meet monthly to address the business aspects of the AFN. Regional Chiefs serving on the Management Committee include Regional Chief Willie Moore (Manitoba), Regional Chief Abram Benedict (Ontario), Regional Chief Joanna Bernard (New Brunswick), Regional Chief Andrea Paul (Nova Scotia), and Regional



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Chief Brendan Mitchell (Newfoundland), Committee Chairperson. The Management Committee extends its thanks to Andrew Bisson, Jonathan Thompson, Roxanne Ruediger and other staff members for their support during the past year.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:

In November 2026, I conclude my term as Regional Chief for Newfoundland. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my community and the AFN and for the inspirational individuals that I have met along the way. The Assembly of First Nations including its dedicated staff, and our National Chief are deeply committed to advancing our people through their tireless advocacy and determination. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity and look forward to what lies ahead. I am certain that our regional representatives will continue to serve their communities by taking positive steps towards addressing the issues of concern in our communities.

The Office of the Regional Chief will maintain its schedule of regular Board meetings and seek input from the Board on matters affecting our region. I look forward to a busy summer of community visits and the pow wow season which begins in early July. Our region hopes that the National Chief will visit during 2026.

Conclusion:

It has been my honour to serve the Newfoundland Region and the AFN as Regional Chief. Our Region is grateful to have a place at the AFN table and to work in collaboration and in the spirit of Reconciliation with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak and other Regional Chiefs as we endeavour to contribute to creating a better today and tomorrow for First Nations.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell,
Newfoundland Region*





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Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe, Prince Edward Island

It is my pleasure to provide this annual report on behalf of the Prince Edward Island Region. This report highlights key regional priorities, national portfolio activities, and ongoing advocacy efforts undertaken throughout the reporting period in support of First Nations communities in Prince Edward Island and across Canada.

Introduction:

This reporting period has been marked by continued engagement on regional and national priorities affecting First Nations communities. In Prince Edward Island, housing, infrastructure, emergency management, climate adaptation, health, and economic development remain important areas of focus. Nationally, responsibilities associated with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People portfolio, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys portfolio, the Health portfolio, and Jordan's Principle have provided opportunities to participate in discussions

aimed at improving outcomes for First Nations individuals, families, and communities. The following report summarizes key activities and priorities throughout the year.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

The priorities of Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation continue to reflect both the strength of the Mi'kmaq leadership and the ongoing need for sustained investment, recognition of rights, and meaningful partnership. Across Epekwitk, First Nations continue to focus on housing, infrastructure, emergency management, climate adaptation, economic development, health and wellness, cultural revitalization, and the implementation of Treaty and inherent rights.

Housing and infrastructure remain important priorities for both First Nations. Population growth, housing demand, aging infrastructure, and limited access to serviced land continue to place pressure on communities. Recent investments in water and wastewater infrastructure have helped support future housing development and community growth; however, additional investments and partnerships will be required to support long-term community growth and infrastructure priorities.

A significant milestone for the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island has been the advancement of Pituamkek National Park Reserve. The creation of the park reserve reflects years of work to protect an area of cultural, historical, and ecological importance to the Mi'kmaq. Pituamkek represents an important example of First Nations stewardship and collaboration and will help ensure the protection of culturally significant lands and waters for future generations.





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Emergency management has become an increasingly important area of focus across Epekwitk. In 2026, Abegweit First Nation, the Government of Canada, and the Province of Prince Edward Island announced a first-of-its-kind multilateral emergency management agreement. The agreement formally recognizes Abegweit First Nation as a partner in emergency management planning, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. The agreement also reflects the growing need for coordinated responses to severe weather events and other emergencies affecting First Nations communities.

First Nations throughout Prince Edward Island continue to address the impacts of climate change through adaptation planning, environmental stewardship and community resilience initiatives. Consideration of coastal erosion, changing weather patterns, emergency preparedness and the protection of community infrastructure in culturally significant areas remains an important part of ongoing planning efforts. These impacts affect community infrastructure, housing, and culturally significant areas.

The implementation of Treaty rights continues to be a key issue across the region. Fisheries remain an important economic, cultural, and social contributor to Mi'kmaq communities. Ongoing discussions regarding the implementation of the Treaty-protected right to fish for a moderate livelihood demonstrate the need for continued dialogue, mutual respect, and practical solutions that support both conservation objectives and the exercise of Mi'kmaq rights.

Economic development continues to be a priority for First Nations. Community-led initiatives in renewable energy, tourism, business development, and workforce development are creating opportunities for growth and long-term sustainability. Investments in these areas support local employment, strengthen community capacity, and contribute to greater economic self-sufficiency. Efforts to explore and develop renewable energy opportunities also demonstrate the growing role of First Nations in advancing climate and economic priorities simultaneously.

Health, wellness, education, language revitalization, and cultural preservation continue to be foundational priorities. Both First Nations have emphasized the importance of supporting youth, strengthening community wellness, improving access to services, and creating opportunities for cultural learning and language revitalization. These efforts contribute to stronger communities and help ensure that future generations remain connected to Mi'kmaq culture, language, and identity.





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Across all of these priorities, Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation continue to advance community-driven solutions while working collaboratively with federal, provincial and other partners. Continued collaboration, investment and partnership will support ongoing community growth, resilience and the advancement of First Nations priorities throughout Epekwitk.

National Portfolio #1 – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2SLGBTQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+) and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys (MMIMB)

Work within the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+) portfolio focused on advocacy, relationship building, and ensuring First Nations priorities were advanced at national and intergovernmental tables. Participation in portfolio briefings, engagement with federal departments, and discussions with First Nations leadership provided opportunities to raise concerns related to community safety, violence prevention, housing, transportation, accessibility, and supports for families and survivors.

We stand united in our commitment to the safety and dignity of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals. We continue to call for government agencies to coordinate actions, report progress and maintain transparency, and build and sustain genuine partnership in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Throughout the reporting period, I represented the AFN at several Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings, including meetings of Ministers responsible for Transportation and Ministers responsible for the Status of Women. These discussions provided opportunities to advance First Nations perspectives on issues connected to MMIWG2S+, including public safety, human trafficking, transportation accessibility, infrastructure gaps, and implementation of the Calls for Justice. Advocacy also included promoting the work of the AFN 2SLGBTQIA+ Council and reinforcing the need for sustained investments that support Two-Spirit and gender-diverse First Nations people.

Additional efforts included engagement with federal officials and correspondence with the Prime Minister regarding the respectful and consistent use of the full MMIWG2S+ acronym in federal communications, emphasizing visibility, recognition, and inclusion.

As the newly assigned portfolio holder for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys (MMIMB), initial efforts focused on becoming familiar with the file, reviewing existing resolutions and policy work, and identifying priorities for future action. Work is underway to engage with AFN policy staff and partners to establish next steps, including examining opportunities to advance resolutions calling for greater attention, coordination, and potential working group development to address issues impacting First Nations men and boys.





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National Portfolio #2 – Health Portfolio (Mental Health & Wellness, NIHB, and Sports & Recreation)

Since assuming responsibilities within the Health portfolio, including Mental Health and Wellness, Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), and Sports and Recreation, efforts have focused on becoming fully informed on the broad range of issues affecting First Nations health and wellness while actively participating in discussions intended to improve outcomes for First Nations communities.

Throughout the reporting period, I participated in portfolio briefings, Chiefs Committee on Health discussions, and national dialogue sessions to better understand current priorities, challenges, and opportunities. As Co-Chair of the Chiefs Committee on Health, I participated in discussions regarding the development of the Committee's Strategic Plan, helping to identify priorities and opportunities that will guide health advocacy and engagement efforts over the coming years. These discussions highlighted the importance of culturally appropriate care, mental health supports, addictions services, health equity, and sustainable investments that respond to the needs of First Nations communities.

Strong voices start in our communities. It's time national spaces reflect the realities and strength of the Nations they represent.

I also participated in the National NIHB Dialogue, where discussions focused on service accessibility, benefit coverage, client experiences, and opportunities to improve program delivery. These engagements provided valuable insight into the concerns being raised by First Nations across the country and reinforced the need for continued advocacy on behalf of First Nations citizens.

Moving forward, priorities will include continued engagement with First Nations leadership, AFN staff, federal partners, and health experts to identify emerging issues and support solutions that improve health outcomes. Particular attention will be given to mental health and wellness, equitable access to services, and ensuring First Nations perspectives remain central to national health discussions and decision-making processes.





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National Portfolio #3 – Jordan's Principle

Work within the Jordan's Principle portfolio focused on remaining informed of ongoing developments, participating in portfolio briefings, and monitoring discussions related to service delivery, long-term reform, and implementation efforts. Throughout the reporting period, regular updates were received from AFN staff and technical experts regarding policy developments, program implementation, and ongoing discussions affecting First Nations children and families.

Participation in meetings and briefings provided opportunities to remain informed on key issues, including long-term reform discussions, implementation challenges, funding commitments, and efforts to ensure First Nations children continue to receive timely access to the products, services, and supports they require. These discussions reinforced the importance of maintaining a child-first approach while ensuring First Nations remain actively involved in decisions that affect their children and communities.

A significant focus of the work involved reviewing emerging information, understanding the evolving policy landscape, and identifying opportunities where advocacy may be required to support equitable access to services and uphold the intent of Jordan's Principle. Continued engagement with AFN staff, First Nations leadership, and federal partners has helped build a stronger understanding of current priorities and future considerations associated with the file.

Moving forward, efforts will focus on continuing to monitor developments, supporting First Nations priorities, and advocating for approaches that improve service access and outcomes for First Nations children and families. Ensuring accountability, maintaining a child-first approach, and supporting the long-term success of Jordan's Principle will remain key priorities as work on the file continues.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

Looking ahead, several priorities will continue to shape advocacy and engagement efforts at both the regional and national levels. Housing and infrastructure remain among the most pressing concerns facing First Nations communities and will require continued investment and partnership to address growing demands. Climate adaptation, emergency preparedness, and environmental stewardship will also remain important priorities as communities respond to the impacts of climate change.





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Nationally, continued work will focus on advancing discussions related to MMIWG2S+, MMIMB, health, and Jordan's Principle. Efforts will continue to support improved access to services, stronger community outcomes, and policies that reflect the priorities identified by First Nations leadership.

The implementation of Treaty and inherent rights, economic development opportunities, community wellness, and support for youth and future generations will remain central considerations in ongoing discussions. Continued collaboration with First Nations leaders, governments, and partner organizations will be necessary to address both immediate challenges and long-term priorities.

The year ahead presents opportunities to build on progress already achieved while continuing to advocate for practical solutions that support strong, healthy, and sustainable First Nations communities.

Conclusion

I would like to thank First Nations leaders, Elders, youth, technicians, community members, and partner organizations for their continued commitment and collaboration throughout the reporting period. Together, we will continue working to advance priorities, address the challenges, and support strong and resilient First Nations communities.

Wela'liq, working together, building a stronger, brighter future.

*Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe,
Prince Edward Island*





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Regional Chief, Joanna Bernard, New Brunswick Region

Kwey! Greetings to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs, National Chief, Regional Chiefs, Knowledge Keepers, Women's Council, Veterans, Youth and the 2SLGBTQIA+. It is a great honor to serve as the Regional Chief for the New Brunswick region. I thank the Chiefs of New Brunswick for their support and commitment to advocating on behalf of their First Nations communities.

Introduction:

As Regional Chief for New Brunswick, I am pleased to present this report that reflects on the regional issues emerging over the past few months. This report serves as a testament to the collective efforts we've undertaken to strengthen our communities, advocate for justice, and uphold the sovereignty of First Nations peoples across New Brunswick and Turtle Island.

Since we met at the last Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2025, the New Brunswick Assembly of First Nations (NBAFN) would like to highlight key priorities in the New Brunswick (NB) region.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

A major shift has taken place in 2026, driven by a federal commitment to host a dedicated First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting (FNFMM) in the Fall of 2026. This structure aims to establish a distinct space where First Nations can directly drive the policy and economic agenda alongside Canada's federal and provincial heads of government. NBAFN has participated in a series of nation-wide engagements and virtual Town Halls over the last few months. NBAFN will continue to ensure NB regional perspectives will shape the collective platform. I look forward to sitting down with an agenda rooted in inherent jurisdiction and treaty rights discussions. Together, we continue to work to transform standard institutional delivery models so that First Nations exercise their own laws, authorities, and systems over core sectors such as economic development, environment, health and housing rather than operating under programs imposed by provincial and federal governments.

Section 35 shares a deeply tied history with the upcoming First Nations First Ministers' Meetings. In defining self-government within Section 35, the upcoming 2026 First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting (FNFMM) is explicitly utilizing Section 35 inherent jurisdiction to bypass standard government programs and establish a true nation-to-nation structure.

Natural Resources

In NB, the intersection of natural resources and First Nations is a rapidly evolving landscape shaped by the Building Canada Act and massive land title claims, resource stewardship disputes, and major





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mineral developments. Because First Nations in the New Brunswick never ceded their lands or waters under the historic Peace and Friendship Treaties, natural resource extraction heavily intersects with Section 35 constitutional protections.

New Brunswick's major project landscape is currently defined by a high-stakes transition toward critical minerals and clean energy, heavily driven by First Nations asserting their Section 35 rights through either direct equity ownership or strict environmental oversight. Central to this shift is the federally fast-tracked, nation-building Sisson Open-Pit Mine Project, where the Wolastoqey Nation is navigating site preparation while demanding strict adherence to free, prior, and informed consent regarding tungsten extraction. Concurrently, First Nations are positioning themselves as central economic drivers in the green transition, exemplified by the Wolastoqey Resource Development Inc.'s massive Salmon River Wind Project and a dedicated Indigenous Economic Development Corporation capturing major subcontracts on the multi-billion-dollar Mactaquac Dam Refurbishment. Further north, the Mi'gmaq Nation is utilizing a formal consultation protocol to co-manage the multi-decade transformation of the Port of Belledune into a green energy hub focused on hydrogen and biomass, signaling a structural move away from historical corporate-first models and toward true Indigenous co-stewardship of the province's industrial future.

Policing

First Nations safety and security in NB is managed through a cost-shared framework involving the RCMP, municipal police partnerships, and an increasing shift toward Indigenous-led safety models like the Mi'gmaq Peacekeeping initiative. First Nations advocacy groups like Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc. and the Wolastoqey Nation are demanding transparent accountability through independent oversight following fatal encounters with the RCMP. They reject internal police frameworks in favor of an Indigenous-led public inquiry into systemic racism within New Brunswick's justice system. Furthermore, leaders are pushing for the implementation of Indigenous crisis response teams to handle de-escalation culturally before armed tactical units arrive.





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Health Transformation

Health Transformation continues to press forward under the Sankewitahasuwakon Collaborative. The initiative is collectively managed by the province's three major tribal councils: Mawiw Inc., the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC), and the Wolastoqey Tribal Council Inc. (WTCI). The ultimate objective of Sankewitahasuwakon is the formal creation of an independent, permanent New Brunswick First Nations health entity capable of taking complete jurisdiction over community wellness across the lifespan.

Fisheries

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB) is in an active, high-stakes battle to save the Atlantic salmon (Polamuwok) following a federal decision by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to permanently close the Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility (MBF) by October 2026. WNNB leaders warn that closing this critical conservation facility without an alternative plan directly threatens the species with localized extinction above the Mactaquac Dam.

Aboriginal Title

The Supreme Court of Canada dismissed an application for leave to appeal from the Wolastoqey Nation regarding its landmark Aboriginal title claim. This pivotal decision allows a prior New Brunswick Court of Appeal ruling to stand as the final legal word for the province, confirming that a declaration of Aboriginal title cannot be granted over privately held lands. The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case solidifies a critical legal precedent that protects private property and corporate forestry lands from Aboriginal title claims in New Brunswick [J.D. Irving, Limited]. This procedural dismissal creates a sharp legal divide across Canada, as it directly contradicts a parallel British Columbia court ruling that allowed Indigenous title to potentially coexist with private land ownership. While the ruling blocks the physical return of private land, it forces the Wolastoqey Nation to shift its legal strategy toward seeking massive financial damages from the Crown based on historical title findings.





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National Portfolio #1: Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal

The Chiefs' Committee on Charter Renewal (CCoCR) plays an important role in supporting the ongoing evolution and effectiveness of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Mandated through Resolution 35/2023, Chiefs' Committee on Charter Renewal – Engagement on Charter Report, the Committee is responsible for engaging First Nations leadership on AFN governance and Charter renewal and for developing recommendations that help ensure the organization remains responsive, accountable, and reflective of First Nations priorities. Charter renewal is an important process that supports strong governance and helps position the AFN to effectively represent and advocate for First Nations now and into the future.

During the reporting period, the CCoCR convened to advance discussions on Charter renewal and governance reform. Discussions focused on identifying potential Charter and governance improvements, regional priorities for renewal, engagement approaches with First Nations leadership, and a draft Charter amendment regarding the separation of political and corporate functions within the AFN. The Committee also considered potential pathways for future Charter amendments and opportunities to strengthen engagement with First Nations leadership on governance issues.

As the Committee's work will help shape the future governance and structure of the AFN, active participation from regional representatives and First Nations leadership remains important. Continued engagement will help ensure future recommendations are informed by diverse regional perspectives and priorities and support consensus-building on potential Charter amendments.

National Portfolio #2: Chiefs Committee on Economic Development

As Co-Portfolio holder for Economic Development alongside Regional Chief Willie Moore, I serve as chair of the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development. In my capacity as portfolio holder, I work with the AFN to advance First Nations jurisdiction over economic development, focusing on several areas, including natural resources, connectivity, international trade, procurement, labour market, and the new fiscal relationship.

This past year, I had the honor of attending various conferences, meetings, and events in Canada and abroad, raising First Nations economic development priorities. Some of the highlights include:

In July 2025, I attended the Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference alongside Regional Chief Abram Benedict. During this meeting, I spoke to federal, provincial, and territorial ministers on First Nations





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concerns over fast tracking projects and the importance of including First Nations in decision-making processes on all projects affecting our lands.

In September 2025, the AFN hosted a recognition event to honour and celebrate the achievements of individuals and First Nations Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Agreement Holder organizations in advancing employment and training for First Nations across Canada.

In February 2026, the AFN hosted its second annual AFN National Natural Resources Forum. Under the theme of “Strengthening Our Sovereignty,” First Nations leaders and delegates gathered, sharing challenges and successes of natural resource management and jurisdiction.

In March 2026, I attended the 2026 Reservation Economic Summit in Las Vegas with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Regional Chief Willie Moore, Regional Chief Francis Verreault-Paul, and Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe. During this event, the AFN and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) renewed their Declaration on Kinship and Cooperation, marking a renewed cross-border partnership between American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and First Nations.

In the year ahead, we look forward to working with the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development to establish direction on the many pressing challenges facing economic development. This includes ongoing work to implement a First Nations-led trade strategy and a national First Nations critical minerals strategy. The AFN will continue to advance First Nations jurisdiction over economic development in collaboration with other Chiefs Committees, the Executive Committee, and the First-Nations-in-Assembly.

National Portfolio #3: Management Committee

I take part in an ad hoc committee of the AFN Executive Committee, the Management Committee, which is a 5-person committee. The Management Committee works with the AFN Secretariat to ensure that administrative and financial activities of the AFN are in place and adhered to.

The objective of the Management Committee is to monitor and report on the administrative and financial status of the AFN to the Executive Committee and to the First Nations-in-Assembly and to make all decisions and recommendations in the best interests of the AFN.





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Responsibilities:

- The Management Committee will engage in dialogue and discussion.
- The Management Committee will avoid real, potential or perceived conflicts of interests and disclose personal conflicts of interest.
- The Management Committee shall review and amend the Finance Policy.
- The Management Committee approves additional resources in excess of the approved budget.
- The Management Committee approves contracts over \$100K.

In 2025/26, the Management Committee met a total of 9 times.

The Path Ahead/Looking forward:

At the foundation of this entire report sits Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Section 35 is not a secondary legal hurdle for corporations or governments to clear; it is the supreme constitutional law of Canada that recognizes our inherent, unceded authority. As we move forward in 2026, our collective expectation is that continued dialogue and engagement translate into legally binding frameworks that respect Section 35 inherent jurisdiction over our lands, resources, and governance models. We will no longer accept the management of our poverty through conditional government programs. We will advocate structural sharing of resource wealth and the full recognition of our laws. Let us continue to work towards a permanent blueprint that reflects a true nation-to-nation future.

Conclusion:

To our First Nations leaders, elders, and community advocates I encourage you to continue the vital work you are doing across New Brunswick and Turtle Island. Your resilience is a powerful force. Whether you are defending sacred waters and lands, transforming healthcare for future generations, or seeking systemic accountability and justice for ancestral territories, your dedication honors our ancestors and paves a sovereign path for our youth. Legal boundaries and political setbacks do not diminish the truth of our history, our inherent rights, or our deep connection to the land. Unity is our strength, and our voices carry a legacy of endurance and hope that cannot be erased.

Woliwon, Wela'lioq, Thank you!

Regional Chief, Joanna Bernard
New Brunswick Region





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Regional Chief Francis Verreault-Paul, Québec-Labrador

This report details the key political, legislative, institutional, and national issues monitored by the AFNQL during the 2025–2026 fiscal year, with rigour, transparency, and a commitment to collective continuity.

Introduction:

The well-being of First Nations and the respect for aboriginal and treaty rights remain at the heart of the AFNQL's mandate. In 2025–2026, the organization continued its engagement with governments, the Assembly of First Nations, parliamentary bodies, regional partners, and international forums. The political context required sustained legislative monitoring, particularly in Quebec, as well as monitoring issues related to the UNDRIP, self-determination, children and families, territory, public safety, education, languages, cultures, and economic development, with a view to structured annual regional policy reporting.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

The 2025–2026 year was marked by significant political and legislative activity for the AFNQL. The political activities report covers the period from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, and presents the main actions, advocacy activities, interventions, and strategic issues addressed by the organization on behalf of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

The AFNQL brings together and represents the 43 First Nations of Quebec and Labrador. It acts as a regional political organization, a forum for consultation among Chiefs and Grand Chiefs, and a liaison with governments and regional, federal, and international institutions. Affiliated with the Assembly of First Nations, it helps convey regional priorities to national forums while ensuring alignment between local, regional, and national priorities.

The compiled data confirm the scope of the work undertaken. The AFNQL recorded 232 communications, advocacy and outreach activities, 137 media interviews, 35 courtesy meetings, 61 policy files monitored, and 34 bills analyzed. Of the 61 policy files, 35 were classified as high priority, representing 57% of the total. Provincial matters accounted for 31 files, or 51% of all policy files monitored.

The implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples remained a cross-cutting issue. In April 2025, the AFNQL coordinated a delegation of Chiefs, elected officials, and advisors to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. According to the annual report, this was the largest regional political participation in this international forum in over twenty years. The interventions focused on the UNDRIP, territories, waters, environmental justice, languages, and the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples.



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Quebec's Bill 1, which would establish a Quebec constitution, was a major issue. Following its participation in the general consultations, the AFNQL called for the bill's withdrawal. The organization raised concerns regarding consultation, free, prior, and informed consent, the recognition of aboriginal rights, Indigenous legal systems, and First Nations governance models. Three technical committee meetings were held with legal experts, institutional representatives, First Nations organizations, the FNQLHSSC, the FNQLSDI, and university professors. More than 15 Grand Chiefs, Chiefs, and elected officials participated. Efforts were also made to engage opposition parties, members of the Quebec government, federal ministers, and allied organizations, including Amnesty International Canada, the Quebec Bar Association, and the Order of Urban Planners of Quebec. A request was submitted to the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Quebec's forestry regime also played a significant role. In early September 2025, the Chiefs' Committee on Forests noted the lack of sufficient guarantees regarding the incorporation of First Nations' proposals into Bill 97 on the modernization of the forestry regime. The AFNQL called for its complete withdrawal, particularly because respect for aboriginal and treaty rights, government-to-government co-management, and the rejection of priority forest management zoning were not guaranteed. On September 16, 2025, a broad-based mobilization brought together the AFNQL, First Nations Chiefs, forestry unions, environmental organizations, and local stakeholders in a united front of opposition.

At the federal level, the AFN monitored several bills. Regarding Bill C-5, Chief Lance Haymond testified on behalf of the AFN before the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities on June 18, 2025. A regional mobilization meeting, held on November 21, 2025, drew only two First Nations out of forty-three. Bill S-2, aimed at amending the Indian Act regarding registration, was also monitored. The Regional Chief appeared before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs on November 4, 2025, to discuss self-determination regarding membership and the potential impacts on services.

In the area of child and family services, Francis Verreault-Paul continued his role as National Champion for reform and Jordan's Principle. In public safety, he participated, as a national champion, in the meeting of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of Justice and Public Safety in October 2025, followed by a tripartite meeting in December 2025. The AFNQL also continued its work in education, languages, cultures, housing, infrastructure, economic development, protection of Indigenous identities, and the Council of Elected Women.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #1 – Defense of interests, rights, and title/legislative reconciliation

The AFNQL continued its work defending the rights, titles, and interests of First Nations within a sustained legislative context. In 2025–2026, 34 bills were analyzed, 61 policy files were monitored, and 35 files were classified as high priority. Provincial issues accounted for 31 files, or 51% of all policy monitoring.

Quebec's Bill 1, dealing with a Quebec constitution, was one of the main issues. Following general consultations, the AFNQL called for its withdrawal. It raised concerns regarding consultation, free, prior, and informed consent, Indigenous legal systems, linguistic, social, economic, and cultural rights, as well as the recognition of aboriginal rights.

Legislative reconciliation remained a key guiding principle. It aims to ensure that laws, policies, and government processes give practical effect to the recognition of First Nations rights, jurisdictions, governments, and laws. The AFNQL also continued its advocacy efforts to ensure that the UNDRIP is implemented in public decision-making.

National Portfolio #2 – Governance and self-determination

Governance and self-determination remained central to the AFNQL's work. The annual report notes that the governance mandate focuses on the recognition and implementation of First Nations' inherent right to self-determination, self-government, and the defense of their legislative jurisdiction.

The AFNQL has supported communities in their political, legal, and administrative efforts. It has also participated in discussions with the governments of Quebec and Canada and contributed to the development of governance models that better reflect the realities of First Nations.

On the issue of child and family services, Francis Verreault-Paul continued his role as National Lead Chief for child and family services reform and for Jordan's Principle. Meetings were held with the National Chiefs' Commission on Children, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and the AFN regarding implementation plans.

The AFNQL maintained that reforms must respect First Nations' laws, cultures, languages, and realities, with the necessary resources.

National Portfolio #3 – Public safety issues

Public safety has remained a priority issue for the AFNQL. For several years, the organization has been advocating with governments to secure adequate recognition and stable funding for First Nations policing services, in accordance with community realities, needs, and responsibilities.

In October 2025, the Regional Chief, as the national lead on the issue, participated in a meeting of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of justice and public safety in Alberta. The AFNQL also brought forward concerns before the National Assembly of Quebec, alongside Chiefs Lance Haymond and Jonathan Germain, particularly regarding funding for essential services, language barriers, community needs, and consultation processes.

The Regional Chief also testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs as part of the study on First Nations police forces. A tripartite meeting on public safety was held in December 2025 with federal, provincial, and First Nations representatives.



Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #4 – Environment, territory, housing, infrastructure, and economic development

Environment, territory, housing, infrastructure, and economic development were treated as interconnected policy issues. The AFNQL reiterated that First Nations are directly affected by decisions related to territory, natural resources, climate change, economic development, and major projects.

Bill 97 on the modernization of the forestry regime was a central issue. In early September 2025, the Chiefs' Committee on Forests noted the lack of sufficient guarantees regarding the integration of First Nations' proposals. The AFN called for the complete withdrawal of the bill, particularly because aboriginal and treaty rights, government-to-government co-management, and the rejection of priority forest management zoning were not guaranteed.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:

For the coming period, the AFNQL plans to continue its political and strategic work on several major issues. Quebec's constitutional bill will remain a central concern, as will the implementation of the UNDRIP, major projects, provincial elections, the forestry regime, child and family services, public safety, education, languages, cultures, housing, infrastructure, and economic development.

The AFNQL will also continue its regional coordination role to support Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, commissions, and regional organizations. Information sharing, legislative monitoring, policy analysis, and communication with First Nations will remain essential.

First Nations governments must be involved from the outset in decision-making processes that affect their territories, their children, their languages, their laws, their services, and their future. The AFNQL will continue to support an approach based on the recognition of rights, respect for the autonomy of each Nation, regional coherence, and government-to-government relations. This approach will require rigorous documentation of mandates, monitoring of government commitments, and regular exchanges with the Chiefs and Grand Chiefs of the region.

Conclusion:

The 2025–2026 year confirms the scope of the political work carried out by the AFNQL: 232 communication and advocacy activities, 137 media interviews, 35 courtesy meetings, 61 policy issues monitored, and 34 bills analyzed. This work focused on the rights, territories, children, families, languages, cultures, and priorities of First Nations.

With respect and kindness.

*Francis Verreault-Paul,
Regional Chief of Quebec-Labrador*





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Abram Benedict, Ontario

Aanii, Boozhoo, Kwekwe, Shekoli, Sekoh, Waachiyaa. It is my honour to share this message with you as we reflect on a year defined by purpose, partnership, and progress. This past year reaffirmed a truth that grounds all of our work at the Chiefs of Ontario: our strength is in our unity.

Introduction:

This report reflects on the work of the Chiefs of Ontario over the 2025-26 reporting period. Our unity is rooted in our principles, our responsibilities to one another, and our continued collaboration across communities. Mandates are handed down by the Chiefs-in-Assembly; the Chiefs of Ontario supports and advocates for those positions. As you read this report, my hope is that you see not only what we accomplished, but how we accomplished it—together, and in a good way. The pages ahead outline our regional priorities, our national advocacy, and the path forward.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

At the heart of our work this year was nation building. We focused on strengthening capacity within and across our communities while supporting Nations as they exercise their inherent rights. This is foundational work. When we invest in First Nations-led governance and capacity, we create the conditions for long-term, measurable success. The relationship between the Chiefs and the Chiefs of Ontario guides everything we do: the Chiefs set the mandate, and we support and advocate for those positions with clarity and consistency.

Building relationships and trust.

I spend a great deal of my time forming relationships and speaking about why relationships matter. Governments, industry, and our supporters must build genuine relationships with First Nations. When you understand the community and the people, you make better decisions. Project success, community success, and capacity building are all rooted in relationship. Where governments wish to advance their priorities, trust must first be built with First Nations. That trust is not a formality—it is the foundation of shared prosperity. This year, I devoted considerable time to meetings with federal and provincial officials, proponents, and community Leadership to advance this principle in practice.

Additions to reserve.

Additions to reserve (ATR) has been an area of focused attention this year. I have met with government officials, proponents, and communities—not only to learn, but to advocate for practical, workable solutions. The work of the Chiefs Committee will now frame lands-related mandates through an economic development lens, and I remain committed to advancing reforms to the additions-to-reserve and specific claims processes. Significant funding shortfalls continue to affect research for specific claims, and we have raised these concerns directly. Reform in this area matters, and I will continue to press for improvements that respect First Nations interests and reduce the barriers that have long delayed progress.



Regional Chiefs' Reports

Resources, responsibility, and jurisdiction.

Resource extraction is a stated government priority, but it must be done in a good way and in accordance with First Nations rights. Many projects can come to fruition when they are done correctly—with consultation, free, prior and informed consent, and respect at their core. Resources must be managed in accordance with our sacred responsibilities, and First Nations jurisdiction must be recognized. Our law-making authority is key. When that authority is acknowledged and upheld, we move toward shared prosperity for all. This year, our Economic Development sector worked alongside the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation and provincial partners, and coordinated a 2026 Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) panel on consultation rights in mining. A task force on resource development on First Nations land and its impact on rights advanced this priority further.

Defending rights against fast-tracked legislation.

Our regional Leadership consistently defended First Nations jurisdiction, inherent rights, and economic sovereignty. The Chiefs of Ontario denounced Bill 5 at Queen's Park in early June 2025 and later denounced Bill C-5, hosting a rally in opposition to legislation that would fast-track major projects without meaningful First Nations consultation. We continue to call on governments to respect First Nations Leadership, uphold consultation obligations, and reject measures that undermine First Nations decision-making authority.

Emergency management.

We continue to work with both levels of government to secure greater First Nations control and full involvement in decisions that affect our people. The urgency of this work was underscored by the state of emergency in Kashechewan First Nation caused by wastewater contamination, which highlighted the need for reliable infrastructure investments. Reliable infrastructure and meaningful participation in emergency planning are not negotiable. Our communities deserve to be at the table—and leading—when decisions about their safety are made.

"Our strength is in our unity—grounded in our principles, our responsibilities to one another, and our continued collaboration across communities."





Regional Chiefs' Reports

Capacity and operations.

Internally, the Secretariat continued to strengthen its operations and expand its capacity, with staff growing to approximately 100 employees. Our Charter remains a foundational document guiding this work, ensuring that our growth supports the communities we serve.

National Portfolio #1 – Lands, Resources, and Jurisdiction

The recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over lands and resources underpins much of our national advocacy. Resolution 23/30S directed the Chiefs of Ontario to review and assess possible legal mechanisms to address the lack of consultation with First Nations in the mining sector, where inherent and Treaty rights may be affected.

"Project success, community success, and capacity building are all rooted in relationship. Where governments wish to advance, trust must first be built with First Nations."

We have advanced this mandate by examining legal avenues, building relationships with industry and government, and asserting that resource development must proceed in accordance with First Nations rights and sacred responsibilities. Our coordination of a 2026 PDAC panel on consultation rights in mining created space for these conversations at a national level, and the creation of a task force on resource development reflects the seriousness with which Leadership treats this file.

Our position remains consistent: economic development and rights recognition are not in conflict. Projects can advance when they are done correctly—with consent, consultation, and respect for jurisdiction. We also continued to advocate for reforms to the additions-to-reserve and specific claims processes, framing lands-related mandates through an economic development lens. When our law-making authority is acknowledged, shared prosperity follows. In the year ahead, we will continue to advance these mechanisms and defend the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over our lands.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #2 – Justice & Policing

Justice and policing remained key priorities throughout the year, reflecting the ongoing need to advance First Nations jurisdiction, uphold inherent and Treaty rights, and strengthen community safety systems that are responsive to First Nations realities. The Justice Sector continued to coordinate the technical and political positions of First Nations Leadership on justice issues, ensuring that advocacy remained grounded in the mandates set by the Chiefs-in-Assembly. This work focused on supporting First Nations in asserting greater control over justice-related matters and advancing approaches that respect First Nations laws, traditions, and decision-making authority.

Policing also remained a central area of concern, particularly as communities continue to call for systems that are adequately resourced, culturally informed, and accountable to the people they serve. Continued advocacy for policing structures and public safety approaches that better reflect First Nations priorities and community needs remain a top priority. This included ongoing engagement with government partners and a continued emphasis on ensuring that justice and policing frameworks do not undermine jurisdiction, but instead support safer, stronger communities.

Across both files, the work was shaped by a broader commitment to self-determination and to the recognition that justice cannot be separated from rights, governance, and community well-being. Whether through technical coordination, policy advocacy, or relationship building with government and other partners, the focus remained on advancing practical and principled solutions. As these discussions continue, we remain committed to ensuring that First Nations voices guide the development of justice and policing systems that are fair, effective, and rooted in the rights and priorities of First Nations.

*"Resources must be managed in accordance with our sacred responsibilities.
When our law-making authority is acknowledged, shared prosperity follows for all."*





Regional Chiefs' Reports

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

The year ahead will demand the same focus and resolve that defined this past year. Our priorities are clear, and they are rooted in the direction of the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

First, we will continue to build capacity, recognizing that sustained investment in First Nations-led governance infrastructure is critical to achieving long-term, measurable outcomes. Next, we will deepen relationships with governments, industry, and supporters, because trust remains the foundation of every successful initiative. We will press for the reintroduction of clean drinking water legislation that includes source water protections, and we will continue to assert First Nations authority over citizenship.

We will advance practical solutions on additions to reserve, pursue the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over lands and resources, and work toward a multilateral framework for emergency management that places First Nations at the centre of decisions affecting our people. Throughout, we will defend our inherent and Treaty rights against legislation that seeks to bypass meaningful consultation.

Rooted in community, we will continue to lead together and thrive together.

Conclusion

I want to thank the staff at both Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations for their commitment and tireless effort this year. To the COO Leadership Council and the Chiefs-in-Assembly, thank you for your direction and your trust. Together, grounded in our principles and responsibilities, we will continue to advance the priorities of First Nations across Ontario.

Nia:wen / Miigwech

Abram Benedict
Ontario Regional Chief
Chiefs of Ontario





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Willie Moore, Manitoba Region

To the Chiefs, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Youth, and Citizens of the First Nations,

It is an honour to present this annual report outlining the work undertaken on over the past year. This reporting period has been marked by significant challenges and important opportunities as we continued to advocate for the rights, interests, and priorities of our Nations at the regional, national, and international levels.

Throughout the year, our office remained focused on advancing the priorities identified by Leadership and ensuring that First Nations voices were heard at every table where decisions impacting our people were being made. Whether advocating for improvements in public safety, emergency management, housing, infrastructure, economic development, education, health, or Treaty implementation, our work has always been guided by the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, and Nation-to-Nation relationships.

As Regional Chief, I continue to serve as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive Co-Co-Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Lands, Territories and Resources, Management Committee and Social Development. These responsibilities have provided opportunities to advance First Nations priorities at the national level while ensuring First Nations remain central to discussions surrounding economic growth, natural resources, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development.

National Portfolio: Management Committee

As Co-Portfolio Holder for the AFN Management Committee, I participated in oversight and governance discussions related to the operations and strategic direction of the Assembly of First Nations.

Key responsibilities included:

- Reviewing organizational priorities and work plans
- Supporting governance and accountability measures
- Participating in financial oversight discussions
- Advancing strategic planning initiatives
- Supporting effective delivery of mandates established by Chiefs-in-Assembly
- Strengthening coordination between Regional Chiefs and AF administration

This work helps ensure that the AFN remains accountable to First Nations leadership while effectively advancing priorities identified by Chiefs across the country.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio: Lands, Territories, and Resources

As Co-Portfolio Holder with Regional Chief Abram Benedict, I serve as Co-Chair of the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources. In this capacity, we work to advance First Nations priorities respecting specific claims reform – including research funding, additions to reserve (ATR), federal recognition processes, and broader goals seeking the restitution of our lands in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

This past year, we continued to navigate a challenging landscape, including addressing and supporting Rights Holders in the severe cuts to specific claims research funding, ensuring ATR reform remains a priority, and working with the Chiefs Committee on establishing a good path forward.

Throughout the year, we engaged with federal ministers to raise concerns regarding specific claims research funding, including supporting the National Chief's intervention with the Prime Minister. This advocacy, combined with the strong First Nations letter writing campaign, resulted in a temporary increase to \$14 million dollars the past fiscal year to address acute shortfalls in research funding – ensuring critical research continued.

We continue to lead work on ATR reform to create a process that works for First Nations. Guided by the mandates of the First-Nations-in-Assembly, this includes advancing an ATR policy and process that unlocks our lands to meet critical needs in areas such as housing and economic development. In February, this included supporting and uplifting our leadership who presented on the need for land restitution to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

In the year ahead, we look forward to working with the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources to establish direction on the many pressing challenges facing our lands and territories. This includes updating leadership on ATR reform and ensuring the AFN engages with Rights Holders as that process advances. The AFN will continue to advocate for a sustainable research funding program for First Nations, and a fair and just specific claims process. More broadly, we will centre our work on supporting First Nations inherent





Regional Chiefs' Reports

jurisdiction and rights in collaboration with the other Chiefs Committees, the Executive Committee, and First-Nations-in-Assembly.

National Portfolio: Economic Development

As Co-Portfolio holder for Economic Development alongside Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, I serve as chair of the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development. In my capacity as portfolio holder, I work with the AFN to advance First Nations jurisdiction over economic development, focusing on several areas, including natural resources, connectivity, international trade, procurement, labour market, and the new fiscal relationship.

This past year, I had the honor of attending various conferences, meetings, and events in Canada and abroad, raising First Nations economic development priorities. Some of the highlights include the AFN's 2nd annual National Natural Resources Forum in February 2026 and the Reservation Economic Summit in March 2026, where the AFN and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) renewed their Declaration on Kinship and Cooperation, a monumental milestone in cross-border partnership.

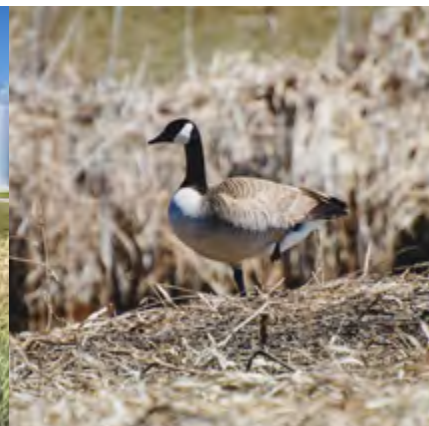
National Portfolio: Social Development

Early Learning and Child Care

As portfolio holder, and chair of the Chiefs Committee on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC), I continue to continue to advance discussions towards a permanent, national funding allocation model for First Nations ELCC funding that upholds principles of equity and sustainability which will be subject to approval by First Nations-in-Assembly at a future AFN Assembly. Additionally, I wrote to the Minister of Jobs and Families, Patty Hajdu, on April 24, 2026, advocating for an additional \$110.4 million over 5 years for First Nations ELCC Programming to account for both population growth and inflation.

Income Assistance

The Income Assistance (IA) program has been under reform for several years and the AFN has continued to advance a First Nations-led reform process. Strengthening First Nations governance over their own social supports will ensure they are culturally appropriate and distinctions-based to meet their specific needs and will enable First Nations to provide to financial assistance to their clients that reflects the true cost of living in First Nations communities. The AFN launched the IA Costing research project to determine the true cost of





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delivering IA on-reserve based on First Nations developed policy reform recommendations. In February 2026, I was honoured to deliver opening remarks at the Sixth Annual IA Forum which brought together over 150 IA technicians to discuss reform and poverty reduction.

Regional activities

Public safety and justice remained among the most significant priorities raised by Manitoba First Nations throughout the year.

Our office convened important dialogue sessions with:

- Public Safety Canada
- RCMP "D" Division
- Manitoba Justice
- Tribal Councils
- Independent First Nations

These discussions focused on:

- Community safety and policing models
- Organized crime and gang activity
- Fentanyl and illicit drug trafficking
- Enforcement of First Nations laws
- RCMP resources and capacity
- Community-led approaches to justice and safety

Our office also continued to advocate for greater transparency regarding RCMP surveillance activities involving First Nations leadership and organizations. We supported calls for the full disclosure of records and accountability measures necessary to rebuild trust between First Nations and law enforcement institutions.

Emergency Management and Wildfire Response

The reporting period saw numerous challenges related to emergencies and evacuations affecting First Nations communities.

Our office worked with:

- Indigenous Services Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Provincial and federal officials
- First Nations leadership





Regional Chiefs' Reports

Advocacy focused on:

- Emergency preparedness and response resources
- Support for evacuees
- Long-term mitigation and prevention strategies
- Infrastructure investments to reduce future risks
- Community-led emergency management capacity

The increasing frequency and severity of emergencies continue to highlight the urgent need for sustainable and predictable funding for First Nations emergency management programs.



Housing and Infrastructure

Housing remains one of the most pressing priorities identified by Manitoba First Nations.

Throughout the year, our office supported leadership in advocating for:

- New housing construction
- Repairs and renovations
- Community infrastructure investments
- School construction projects
- Flood mitigation initiatives
- Transportation and road infrastructure

We continue to raise concerns regarding persistent infrastructure gaps affecting many Manitoba First Nations.

Treaty Rights and Advocacy

The protection and advancement of Treaty rights remained central to our work.

Key advocacy efforts included:

- Advancing discussions related to Treaty implementation.
- Supporting First Nations positions regarding Treaty Land Entitlement and reserve expansion.
- Advocating for Treaty-based approaches to economic development and resource management.
- Supporting discussions related to Treaty Agriculture Benefits.
- Raising awareness of historical injustices affecting First Nations, including issues surrounding Rupert's Land and Crown obligations.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

These efforts continue to reinforce the Nation-to-Nation relationship envisioned by our ancestors and affirmed through the Treaties.

Intergovernmental Relations

Throughout the year, our office engaged regularly with:

- Federal Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries
- Provincial Ministers
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- National organizations

These engagements focused on ensuring Manitoba First Nations priorities remained at the forefront of government decision-making and policy development.

Community Engagement

Supporting First Nations leadership and participating in community events remained an important aspect of the work undertaken throughout the year.

Our office attended and supported:

- Community gatherings and annual general meetings
- Cultural celebrations
- Groundbreaking ceremonies
- School and graduation events
- Leadership forums
- Economic development conferences
- National AFN meetings and assemblies





Regional Chiefs' Reports

These opportunities allowed us to hear directly from leadership and citizens while strengthening relationships across the Manitoba Region.

Next steps

As we move forward, our priorities remain clear:

- Strengthening First Nations self-determination.
- Advancing economic sovereignty.
- Protecting lands, territories, and resources.
- Improving community safety and policing.
- Addressing housing and infrastructure deficits.
- Enhancing emergency management capacity.
- Advancing Treaty implementation and Crown accountability.
- Supporting youth, Elders, and future generations.

The challenges facing our Nations are significant, but so too is our collective strength. Through unity, collaboration, and strong leadership, we will continue advancing the priorities of First Nations and ensuring our voices are heard at every level.

Ekosi.

*Regional Chief Willie Moore
Manitoba Region*





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Bobby Cameron, Saskatchewan Region

National Chief, members of the Executive Committee, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, youth, educators, and delegates from across Turtle Island. It is an honour to provide this report on behalf of the Assembly of First Nations Education Portfolio. We extend our deepest respect and gratitude to all those who continue to advocate for our children, youth, families, languages, and future generations. Education remains one of the most powerful tools for nation-building, self-determination, and the exercise of our inherent and Treaty rights.

Introduction

Education is a sacred responsibility entrusted to us by our ancestors and owed to future generations. Across Canada, First Nations continue to advance education systems grounded in our languages, cultures, traditions, and laws. The AFN Education Portfolio works alongside First Nations leadership, education organizations, language experts, and federal partners to ensure that First Nations exercise control over education while securing equitable and sustainable investments.

Over the past year, significant work has been undertaken to advance First Nations education reform, improve K–12 funding, strengthen post-secondary opportunities, advocate for education infrastructure, and support language revitalization initiatives. While progress has been achieved, substantial gaps remain. Our collective advocacy continues to focus on ensuring that every First Nations learner has access to safe schools, culturally relevant curriculum, language immersion opportunities, qualified educators, and pathways to lifelong learning.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

Throughout 2025–2026, First Nations leaders from every region continued to identify education as one of the highest priorities affecting community well-being, economic development, language preservation, and self-determination.

A major focus remained the implementation and enhancement of the First Nations K–12 Education Transformation initiative. While the transition away from proposal-based funding has improved predictability for many First Nations, communities continue to report significant funding shortfalls. Many schools face increased operational costs, transportation challenges, staffing shortages, special education pressures, and rising infrastructure demands.

First Nations leadership consistently emphasized that funding formulas must accurately reflect the realities faced by remote, northern, rural, and urban First Nations communities. Current funding approaches continue to fall short in addressing inflation, enrolment growth, language programming, mental wellness supports, technology needs, and land-based education initiatives.



Regional Chiefs' Reports

Education infrastructure remained a critical concern. Across Canada, many First Nations students continue to attend schools requiring major renovations, replacement, or expansion. Population growth in numerous communities has resulted in overcrowded classrooms and increased pressure on existing facilities. Chiefs have repeatedly called upon Canada to accelerate investments in school construction, transportation systems, broadband connectivity, and long-term operations and maintenance funding.

Language revitalization remained central to education discussions across all regions. First Nations continue to advance language immersion programs, language nests, curriculum development, teacher training initiatives, and community-based learning opportunities. The implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act* has provided opportunities for further discussions regarding long-term language revitalization funding; however, many First Nations continue to advocate for predictable and sustainable investments that meet community needs.

"Education rooted in language, culture, and Treaty knowledge empowers future generations to lead with confidence and pride."

Post-secondary education also remained a significant priority. First Nations students continue to encounter barriers associated with inadequate funding, rising tuition costs, housing shortages, and limited access to culturally relevant support services. Regional organizations have emphasized the importance of expanding First Nations-controlled post-secondary institutions, increasing student financial supports, and recognizing the diverse pathways learners take toward educational success.

Youth engagement continued to strengthen throughout the year. First Nations youth leaders consistently advocated for increased involvement in decision-making processes affecting education. Youth priorities included mental health supports, language revitalization, access to technology, climate education, cultural programming, and improved transitions between secondary and post-secondary education.

The AFN Education Forum and numerous regional gatherings provided opportunities for educators, leadership, and technical experts to share promising practices and identify common priorities. These engagements reaffirmed that First Nations control of First Nations education remains the foundation for meaningful educational success and self-determination.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #1 – First Nations K–12 Education

The AFN Education Portfolio continued to advocate for equitable and sustainable K–12 funding that reflects the actual needs of First Nations learners. Significant efforts were directed toward addressing funding gaps identified through ongoing analysis of the K–12 Education Transformation process.

Work continued through the Chiefs Committee on Education and the National Indian Education Council to ensure First Nations voices guide future policy development and funding reforms. Advocacy efforts focused on securing resources that support language and culture-based education, inclusive education services, technology investments, transportation requirements, and educator recruitment and retention.

The AFN also continued to advance First Nations-led approaches to educational governance and accountability while reaffirming that education is an inherent and Treaty right. Chiefs across Canada emphasized that federal investments must be sufficient to achieve educational outcomes comparable to those available elsewhere while respecting First Nations jurisdiction and distinct educational priorities.

National Portfolio #2 – Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning

The AFN continued to advocate for expanded post-secondary opportunities for First Nations learners. Despite growing enrolment and increasing demand, many First Nations students continue to face barriers in accessing adequate financial support.

Portfolio activities focused on advocating for increased funding allocations, improved student supports, and greater recognition of First Nations-controlled post-secondary institutions. Discussions with federal officials emphasized the need for long-term, predictable investments that support student success and institutional sustainability.

The portfolio also supported initiatives aimed at strengthening adult education, skills development, workforce readiness, and community-based learning opportunities. First Nations leaders continue to stress that post-secondary education is essential to nation-building, economic development, governance capacity, and self-determination.

National Portfolio #3 – First Nations Languages and Education Revitalization

Language revitalization remains inseparable from First Nations education success. Throughout the reporting period, the AFN supported ongoing implementation efforts related to the *Indigenous Languages Act* and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

Work focused on advancing language immersion programming, curriculum development, educator training, and regional language planning initiatives. First Nations language experts continued to identify the urgent need for sustainable funding that reflects the diversity of language realities across Canada.

The AFN supported engagement processes designed to ensure First Nations maintain leadership in decisions regarding language investments and implementation strategies. Language revitalization efforts contribute directly to student identity, cultural continuity, community wellness, and educational achievement.



Regional Chiefs' Reports

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

As we move forward, First Nations education must continue to be guided by our inherent rights, Treaty rights, jurisdiction, and self-determination.

The path ahead requires sustained advocacy for equitable funding, improved infrastructure, expanded post-secondary opportunities, and comprehensive language revitalization investments. First Nations must remain at the center of all decision-making processes affecting our learners and communities.

Emerging priorities include strengthening digital learning capacity, addressing educator shortages, expanding culturally grounded curriculum development, increasing mental wellness supports, and ensuring all learners have access to safe and modern learning environments.

"Strong partnerships and strong communities create strong futures for our children."

We must continue building education systems that reflect who we are as First Nations Peoples while preparing future generations to succeed in both Indigenous and contemporary worlds. Through unity, collaboration, and strong leadership, we will continue advancing First Nations control of First Nations education across Canada.

Conclusion

Education is nation-building. It is the foundation upon which we strengthen our languages, cultures, governance systems, and future generations. Together, we will continue advocating for the resources, recognition, and jurisdiction necessary to ensure every First Nations learner has the opportunity to thrive.

In unity and respect, we move forward together always.

*Regional Chief Bobby Cameron,
Saskatchewan Region*





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Terry Teegee, British Columbia

Chiefs, Hereditary Leaders, Knowledge Keepers, youth and community members. Hadih and greetings from Lheidli T'enneh territory. On behalf of the 204 First Nations in British Columbia and the BCAFN Board of Directors, I am honoured to present this report outlining BCAFN's ongoing work in the region and across my national portfolio areas. Mussi Cho for your continued leadership and trust.

Introduction:

As Regional Chief for British Columbia, I continue to advocate for the inherent Title, Rights and Treaty rights of First Nations across our diverse province. The past year was marked by significant challenges and successes. From defending the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, to advancing economic self-determination through international trade, we've strengthening our relationships and advocacy efforts on climate action, fisheries, justice, and housing. With our partners and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) we have built a unified front that holds governments to

account. Our work remains grounded in the principle that decisions affecting First Nations must require our free, prior and informed consent.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

Defending the Declaration Act

The defining challenge of this past year was the Province's campaign to amend, suspend, and ultimately undermine BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) in the wake of the *Gitxaala-Ehattesaht* Court of Appeal decision. First Nations leadership, BCAFN, UBCIC, and FNS mounted a powerful and sustained counter campaign over many months, resulting in the Province backtracking on their intention to significantly amend DRIPA, and to suspend any discussion of amendments to consider other solutions to their perceived legal issues with *Gitxaala-Ehattesaht* and DRIPA.

At the BCAFN 22nd Special Chiefs Assembly in Penticton on March 3-5, BC Chiefs reaffirmed their opposition and provided a clear mandate that BC First Nations are not supportive of any amendments to DRIPA. The FNLC convened multiple emergency All Chiefs meetings, met directly with Premier Eby and Attorney General Sharma and hosted a press conference firmly rejecting amendments. The Province's April 2026 decision to defer suspension and amendments to enter a six-month process to consider solutions represents a significant outcome achieved through advocacy of First Nations leadership.

"BCAFN and the FNLC will not allow Premier Eby's government to gut the Declaration Act. First Nations' inherent rights are non-negotiable, and we will continue to hold the Province accountable."



Regional Chiefs' Reports

Federal Engagement

BCAFN has been active at the federal level across a range of priority areas. In February, I met with a number of Federal officials during a hill advocacy week including Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Joanne Thompson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Gregor Robertson, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Rebecca Alty, Minister of Natural Resources Tom Hodgson, Minister of Justice Sean Fraser and Minister of Indigenous Services Mandy Gull-Masty. We have also been fully engaged with the Major Projects Office and Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on recent federal announcements with respect to expedited regulatory reviews process, the MOU between Canada and Alberta and holding government's feet to the fire with respect to the need to ensure that free, prior and informed consent is met when there is any contemplation of a major project.

Trade Missions

Recently, I have had the opportunity to participate and lead trade missions to Mexico and Aotearoa. In February, I joined the Team Canada Trade Mission to Mexico, the largest in Canadian History, and one of the first to include First Nations representation. As part of this trade mission I connected with Mexican Indigenous groups, and along with Ministers Leblanc, Miller and MacDonald, participated in an Indigenous leaders roundtable at the Canadian Embassy. In June, BCAFN led our own trade mission to New Zealand, supported by Global Affairs Canada and in partnership with the Federation of Māori Authorities, the purpose of this trade mission was to advance economic development relationships between BC First Nations and Māori across sectors including forestry, energy, mining, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism.

Children and Families, Housing and Water

Ongoing work on long-term reform of First Nations Child and family services and Jordan's Principle continues to remain a priority for the BCAFN. Canada submitted a unilateral plan to the Human Rights Tribunal while the National Children's Chiefs Commission, the Caring Society and the AFN collaboratively developed the "Loving Justice" plan. BCAFN advocated for meaningful regional variations within a strong, First Nations-leg national framework. On housing, the BC Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee is now operational and providing oversight on our work related to housing and our partnership with the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council. On water, BCAFN continues to advocate for the re-introduction of safe drinking water legislation grounded in the UN Declaration (BCAFN resolution 33/2025), with a public communications campaign underway to apply pressure to the federal government.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #1 – UNDA Implementation

As holder of the national AFN portfolio for the federal implementation of the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA), I chair the AFN Chiefs Committee on UNDA. Since coming into force on June 21, 2021, UNDA requires Canada to ensure federal laws are consistent with the UN Declaration, implement an action plan and report annually to Parliament. Despite these obligations, implementation has been slow, ad hoc and lacking critical transparency and accountability mechanisms. This has been apparent in Canada's failure to align important bills, including Bill C-5, *The One Canadian Economy Act* and Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code*. I have met with Minister Fraser numerous times over the past six months to identify these missed opportunities and advocate for renewed commitment to UNDA implementation and the FNLC-DOJ BC Specific Table.

National Portfolio #2 – Justice and Policing

I continue to hold the justice portfolio with the National Assembly of First Nations and co-chair the AFN's Chiefs Committee on Justice. This portfolio is now shared with Regional Chief Francis Verrault-Paul from Quebec and Regional Chief Abram Benedict from Ontario. I continue to advocate for implementation of the National Indigenous Justice Strategy and calling for policy and legislative reform to ensure the justice system is responsive to the rights, jurisdiction and interest of First Nations. Residential school denialism continues to be used as a tool to gain political support. BCAFN has received a clear mandate from the chiefs to advocate for the criminalization of residential school denialism and I spoke to the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights in May to advocate for the inclusion of residential school denialism in the proposed C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places)*, which the Senate Standing Committee agreed to amend to include residential school denialism as an indicatable offence.

"It is essential that governments take a strong stance against residential school denialism. Political leaders must acknowledge the trauma endured by survivors and engage respectfully with First Nations."





Regional Chiefs' Reports

National Portfolio #3 – Fisheries

I co-chair the fisheries portfolio with RC Andrea Paul. The BCAFN continues to advance coordinated advocacy on wild salmon recovery, fisheries governance reform and the protection and implementation of First Nations rights and jurisdiction. With the Salmon Allocation Policy tensions rise, increased funding uncertainty and major project acceleration increase pressures on waterways, our efforts have focused on ensuring that rights-based governance and conservation remain central to decision-making.

We have been closely monitoring the federal review of the Salmon Allocation Policy (SAP) and working with our partners, including the BC First Nations Fisheries Council to ensure that any review of the SAP upholds the UN Declaration, the Ahousaht Decision, and that conservation and rebuilding must be a priority. I continue to advocate for substantive amendments to the Fisheries Act to ensure it is in full alignment with the UN Declaration, upholding First Nations laws and decision-making including strengthened protection of First Nations knowledge.

On rights recognition, the February announcements of Musqueam's agreement with the Federal Government which recognizes Musqueam rights and title while strengthening their role in fisheries, marine management and stewardship is a meaningful development and builds on the 1990 Sparrow decisions and reflects the direction of change called for under AFN Resolution 22/2025, *Implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada's Sparrow Decision*. First Nations have raised concerns about the sunseting of the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative, uncertain renewal of the Indigenous Aquatic Habitat Participation Program, limited long-term Species at Risk commitments, and no significant new federal salmon recovery investments in Budget 2025. Federal public service reductions also raise concerns about DFO's capacity to conduct stock assessments, enforce habitat protections, and uphold consultation obligations.

"Canada's failure to legislate First Nations' right to safe drinking water is unacceptable. We will continue to push for legislation that upholds the UN Declaration and the human right to water for every First Nations community."





Regional Chiefs' Reports

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

The political landscape facing First Nations in BC and across Canada demands continued work and coordinated action. The Province's deferral of the DRIPA amendments/suspension is a step in the right direction, but not a resolution. BCAFN will remain at the table, holding firm that DRIPA must be upheld.

The Federal government's expedited regulatory process for major projects presents an urgent call to action. Without meaningful alignment with UNDA, accelerated timelines threaten to bypass consultation, FPIC and co-development processes First Nations have found hard to establish.

We are deeply concerned by the growing tide of anti-First Nations racism and rights denialism across BC and Canada, including the Alberta separatism movement and its implications for First Nations. BCAFN stands in solidarity with First Nations in Alberta in their work to uphold their Treaty rights and their Treaty relationship with the Crown.

The work ahead requires unity and persistence across all issues. BCAFN remains committed to advancing First Nations rights, title and self-determination at every table and in every forum.

Conclusion

The work ahead demands our continued collaboration, courage, and unity. Together, we are building a future for First Nations in BC that honours our ancestors' sacrifices and ensures our children inherit communities and Nations that are sovereign, prosperous, and culturally strong. I am proud to stand in this work alongside each of you.

In solidarity and with gratitude, Mussi Cho!

*Regional Chief Terry Teegee,
British Columbia*





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Math'ieya Alatini, Yukon

Shāw nithän, it is an honour to present my first Annual Report as the Yukon Regional Chief. I want to begin by respectfully acknowledging our offices reside on the traditional territories of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. The work summarized in this report would not be possible without the support and collaboration of Chiefs, Elders, Youth, Knowledge Keepers, and our communities.

Introduction:

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of stepping into my role as the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) Grand Chief and inheriting the role of Yukon Regional Chief. It is an honour to represent Yukon First Nations' voices at the territorial and national levels and advocate for Northern priorities. Our communities face growing challenges including climate change impacts, economic pressures, health and wellbeing social concerns, and ongoing efforts to advance our rights and self-determination – all while navigating an increased focus on the north, both nationally and internationally. I am thankful for the trust and guidance of our Yukon First Nations' Leadership, citizens, partners, and staff who all play vital roles in shaping this collective work.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

This past year was a period of significant transition for the Yukon region. I was elected as Grand Chief of CYFN in June 2025. This coincided with a resolution to amalgamate the AFN Yukon Office with CYFN, at which point I inherited the additional role of AFN Yukon Regional Chief. The work to operationalize this is still underway, as leadership reviews the mandate of CYFN and moves to develop a strategic plan to carry us forward.

In November 2025, the Yukon Party was elected to form a new majority of Yukon government. This resulted in major shifts to several key initiatives, including a pause of the implementation of a new health authority that would have seen Yukon First Nations in a co-governance role for territorial healthcare. As we evaluate the priorities of this new government, Yukon First Nations have focused on government-to-government relationship building. Through strong advocacy by First Nation Leadership, the Yukon government has committed to revisiting the joint work that had been undertaken in health system transformation. Progress has been made to identify our joint priorities through our quarterly bilateral meetings, referred to as Yukon Forums. These bilateral meetings are one of many important venues for the Premier and Ministers of the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations' Chiefs to discuss and advance our shared priorities.

We are also working with the Government of Yukon to develop a New Minerals Legislation for the territory. This will update century-old placer mining practices and modernize mining in the territory – protecting the rights of First Nations and the lands we care for, while creating certainty for industry.



Regional Chiefs' Reports

On the energy front, the Yukon is facing energy reliability challenges directly affecting affordability, housing development, economic growth, and essential services, particularly during winter conditions. Through various First Nations-led energy tables, Yukon First Nations are defining energy priorities, and discussing new energy projects, both on and off grid.

While significant transitions have shaped this past year, they have also created opportunities to strengthen our shared priorities regarding health advocacy, energy reliability, co-governance, and strengthening our arctic security. The Yukon is a unique landscape for better understanding the implementation of modern treaties and what self-government can truly look like in practice. The value of our perspectives must not be overlooked but instead shared and heard.

National Portfolio #1 – Health

This year the AFN Chiefs Committee on Health undertook a strategic planning process (2026-2031) to help focus national health priorities. Priority areas for action include:

- Access to care and continuum of services
- Mental wellness, substance use and community safety
- Health human resources and infrastructure
- Governance, self-determination and accountability
- Anti-racism and cultural safety
- Data sovereignty and technology

The AFN and the Yukon Region continue to fight for sustainable, long-term funding to support First Nations mental wellness and substance use supports. This work includes contributing to the renewal of the *First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework* and the *Honour Our Strengths Framework*, while ensuring Yukon First Nations' perspectives are reflected in national discussions.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

NIHB continues to be a priority for the AFN, playing a key advocacy role on behalf of First Nations across the country. The AFN hosted a national dialogue on NIHB in February 2026 in Vancouver. This event brought together 100 regional representatives from across Canada to foster a culturally safe space to reflect on past advocacy, share updates on current initiatives, and build a shared vision for the future through meaningful dialogue.

The AFN continues to support the NIHB Joint Review process. It has underscored how restrictive fiscal and eligibility policies continue to create significant barriers to achieving equitable health outcomes for First Nations.

Working together to address challenges with NIHB continues to be a priority for Yukon First Nations as directed at the 2025 CYFN General Assembly by way of resolution.

Racism in Health Care Systems

Racism remains a persistent challenge, contributing to mistrust and unsafe health care environments. The AFN is contributing to a national cultural safety and humility standard in collaboration with the Health Standards Organization and a First Nations Technical Committee, aiming for completion by 2027.

National Portfolio #2 – Arctic Security

As Arctic security becomes a greater focus at the federal level, Arctic sovereignty has quickly become an elevated priority among Yukon First Nations. For decades to come, our people will be faced with threats from international actors, climate change, and new technologies. Yukon First Nations must manage increased military presence on our land while ensuring that the billions of dollars coming into the Yukon benefit our communities, particularly when we look at our energy infrastructure, health care needs, and economic outcomes.

To this end, we have hired staff dedicated to supporting Yukon First Nations as they advocate for a co-governance approach to Arctic security that benefits everyone. At the direction of Chiefs, CYFN will continue to advocate at the territorial and federal level to share Yukon First Nations' Arctic security priorities and work alongside our leadership to undertake these major projects in a way that protects Yukon First Nation land, culture, and self-determination.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

The past year has reinforced the importance of working together to ensure that our voices continue to shape decisions at all government levels. While there is still a lot of work to do, we continue to solidify our joint priorities for more inclusive health care services, improved energy dependability, strengthening our security over the north, and proudly executing our self-determination through our self-government agreements.

The progress outlined throughout this report reflects the collective efforts of many people. I extend my sincere appreciation to Yukon First Nations' Chiefs, Elders, Youth, citizens, CYFN and AFN staff, and our member Nations whose commitment and hard work make this work all possible.

It is a privilege to serve as Grand Chief of the CYFN and AFN Yukon Regional Chief. I look forward to continuing this work alongside everyone as we build on our successes, uphold our responsibilities to one another, and work toward a strong unified future led by First Nations' voices.

Conclusion

More than fifty years after Yukon First Nations' Chiefs travelled to Ottawa to lay the foundation for self-governing agreements, the vision they carried continues to guide our work today. Representing Yukon First Nations at the national table is both a privilege and a responsibility. The path ahead relies on us continuing to work Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow.

Shāw nithān, gūnátchīsh, māhsi'cho, thank you.

*Regional Chief Math'ieya Alatini,
Yukon*





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief George Mackenzie, Northwest Territories

Greetings to my fellow Chiefs and esteemed members of the AFN Assembly. As Dene National Chief, I am honoured to bring forward the voices of Denendeh. The Dene Nation stands firm in upholding our inherent and Treaty rights, advocating on issues of common concern on behalf of our Dene communities.

Introduction

The Dene Nation advocates on issues of common concern on behalf of Dene communities across Canada's Northwest Territories. We give collective voice to shared priorities—upholding inherent and Treaty rights, protecting the land and water, and advancing self-determination—while respecting that each Dene region and community has the right to have their voices heard and their decisions and directions upheld.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

The Dene Nation advocates on issues of common concern on behalf of Dene communities across the Northwest Territories, giving collective voice to shared priorities and ensuring that Dene interests—as directed by our Chiefs—are upheld and advanced. This report outlines the regional priorities currently before us: reform of NWT Child and Family Services, the impact of major Canadian projects in Denendeh, the need for direct engagement that respects Dene rights, and the implications of growing global attention on the Arctic.

NWT Child and Family Services Reform: The current child and family services system in the NWT has not served Dene families well. It has too often lacked cultural grounding and adequate support, contributing to the disproportionate number of Dene children in care. Reform is among the most urgent concerns we carry on behalf of our communities, because nothing matters more than the well-being and future of our children.

"Every child matters. Reclaiming jurisdiction over child and family services builds a better future for our children—in our communities, by our people."

The path forward is Dene-led child and family services—delivered in our communities, by our people, and grounded in Dene language, traditions, and values. This means restoring decision-making to Dene hands, embedding culturally rooted practices, and strengthening community-based supports. The goal is clear: better outcomes for children and families, fewer children in care, and stronger family units. The Dene Nation's role is to coordinate this common cause and advocate for it, while respecting that each region and community directs the future of its own children.



Regional Chiefs' Reports

Major Canadian Projects in Denendeh: Denendeh continues to see major resource and infrastructure projects. These carry economic potential, but also real environmental and social risks to traditional lands, waters, and ways of life, including the disruption of sacred sites. The Dene Nation advocates to ensure these concerns are heard and that development never proceeds at the expense of Dene rights and interests. Effective engagement and consultation are essential. Dene communities must be at the decision-making table so inherent and Treaty rights are respected and their priorities advanced. We press for collaborative frameworks that put Dene knowledge, direction, and consent at the centre—recognizing that the rights to be consulted belong to the regions and communities themselves. The Dene Nation's part is to coordinate a common position, support communities, and carry forward the direction set by our Chiefs.

"We will keep working hard to deliver results for the Dene people, following our Chiefs' direction and the words and wisdom of our Elders."

National Portfolio #1

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management is actively engaged in initiatives to enhance emergency management across First Nations communities. The committee is currently focused on advocating for predictable and sustainable funding for emergency management (EM) capacity, as 345 First Nations lack funding for full-time Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs) as of 2025. The AFN is pushing for a total of \$205 million over five years to support these positions and an additional \$2.1 billion for all four pillars of emergency management, aligning with the AFN's National Climate Strategy.

The committee presented at the Special Chiefs' Assembly in December 2025, where they discussed draft resolutions aimed at supporting First Nations through the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council and advocating for multilateral negotiations with federal, provincial, and territorial governments.





Regional Chiefs' Reports

The Path Ahead/Looking forward

The Dene Nation's future is rooted in resilience, cultural preservation, and sustainable development. As we navigate modern complexities, the Dene are dedicated to maintaining their cultural heritage while embracing growth and self-determination.

Central to the Dene leaders' mission is the work to protect our families and the mission to address child and family services for Denendeh.

Economic development is crucial. By responsibly leveraging natural resources, the Dene aim to create sustainable opportunities that benefit our communities. This includes developing relationships with industries that respect environmental stewardship and traditional lifestyles. Renewable energy, construction of major infrastructure are potential growth avenues that will provide Dene with economic growth and improved services.

Political advocacy and self-governance are pivotal. We the Dene asserts our rights and negotiates with governments to ensure our voices are heard in decisions affecting their lands and people.

Conclusion

The Dene Nation remains steadfast in upholding Dene inherent and Treaty rights, uplifting the voices of our communities, and advocating on issues of common concern. We do this by respecting self-government and the right to self-determination and following and respecting the direction of our Chiefs.

Mahsi cho—together we stand for Denendeh, our rights, our future.

*Regional Chief George Mackenzie,
Northwest Territories*





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Knowledge Keepers Council

Introduction

The AFN Knowledge Keepers Council (KKC) is a vital council of the AFN. As established in the AFN Charter, the KKC is an advisory body to the AFN Chiefs' Committees, the AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee.

The KKC is made up of three Knowledge Keepers from each of AFN's affiliated regions across Canada, representing male, female, and 2SLGBTQIA communities. The KKC's role is to offer assistance, advice, and support to the National Chief, the AFN Executive Committee, and First Nations-in-Assembly. Each member of the KKC provides guidance to at least one AFN Sector and Portfolio.

Knowledge Keepers Council Members

The Council elects two co-chairs annually. As of January 2025, the KKC is represented by co-chairs Gwendolyn Point of British Columbia and Chuck Hume of Yukon Region.

The KKC is currently comprised of the following members:

- Yukon – *Chuck Hume (Co-Chair) and Mary Jane Jim*
- British Columbia – *Dr. Gwendolyn Point (Co-Chair) and Harvey McLeod*
- Northwest Territories – *Grace Blake and Felix Lockhart*
- Alberta – *Ivy Raine and Lawrence Courtoreille*
- Saskatchewan – *Vacant*
- Manitoba – *Mike Muswagon*
- Ontario – *Teri Fiddler and Barney Batise*
- Quebec and Labrador – *Bill Sunday and Joe Lazore*
- New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island – *Eldon Bernard*
- Nova Scotia – *Judy Clark and Barbara Sylliboy*
- Newfoundland – *Dr. Calvin White*

Key Activities and Activities 2025-2026

The KKC has re-engaged with portfolio discussions and has ensured that each AFN portfolio has an accompanying Knowledge Keeper to provide guidance. The AFN continues to update the KKC on their portfolios at the Annual General Assembly and Special Chiefs Assemblies. The Council continues to meet to ensure they remain updated on current events that impact First Nations across the country.





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The Council continues to advocate for First Nations languages, traditions, and ceremonies, ensuring that they thrive as the foundation for creating and maintaining stronger Nations. The Council is essential to the AFN's day-to-day activities to keep First Nations' traditions, values, languages, and history at the fore. They work to ensure the success and well-being of the youth, just as our ancestors did for us. The Council continues to engage, provide support, and share information with Elders within their regions.

The Path Ahead, Moving Forward

The KKC will continue to provide support and guidance to AFN Chiefs Committees, the AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee, ensuring that all activities move forward in a good way. The KKC will continue to meet as required, including at the AFN Annual General Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario in July 2026, and the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario, in December 2026.

Activity #1 - Updating Terms of Reference

The KKC plans to update their Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR will enable the Council to continue to provide assistance and support activities of the AFN Secretariat, AFN Executive Committee, Chiefs Committees, and Councils.

Activity #2 - Updating the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Charter

The KKC will provide feedback to the Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal as they work to update the AFN Charter. These updates will allow the Council to advance their work and continue to meet to review and update protocols, traditions, ceremonies, roles, and responsibilities.

Activity #3 - Aligning Sector Portfolios

The KKC assigned portfolios to each Council member, ensuring that each AFN portfolio is supported by a Knowledge Keeper who provides necessary guidance and participates in sector meetings, as needed.

Activity #4 - Information Sharing

Working alongside the First Nations Veterans Council, the KKC publishes and distributes the *Council Flyer*, a bi-annual newsletter designed to promote and share information about the Council's progress, activities, and achievements to First Nations-in-Assembly.





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Women's Council

Introduction

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Women's Council is dedicated to fostering healthy, harmonious, and joyful communities by promoting cultural identity and teachings rooted in respect, love, courage, wisdom, honesty, humility, and truth. The Council plays a crucial role in ensuring a gender-balanced perspective within First Nations communities and in all organizations engaging with First Nations, consistently upholding the rights and aspirations of First Nations women.

The primary goal of the Women's Council is to ensure that the concerns and perspectives of First Nations women inform the work of the AFN. Council members actively fulfill their portfolio responsibilities and participate in a variety of panels, presentations, and forums addressing the issues that matter most to First Nations women.

Council Members

- Alberta – *Brenda Vanguard (Chair)*
- British Columbia – *Vice Chief Cheryl Rule*
- Yukon – *Carissa Waugh*
- Northwest Territories – *Brenda Gauthier*
- Saskatchewan – *Constance Big Eagle*
- Manitoba – *Betsy Kennedy*
- Ontario – *Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum (Co-Chair)*
- Quebec – *Savannah McGregor*
- New Brunswick – *Vacant*
- Newfoundland – *Chief Joanne Miles*
- Nova Scotia – *De-Anne Sack*
- Prince Edward Island – *Madlene Sark*

Key Issues and Activities 2025-2026

The key priorities for the AFN's Women's Council include addressing external government policies and legislation, implementation of the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+) National Action Plan, and redress for the forced or coerced sterilization of First Nations women and support for criminalization of forced sterilization.

Following the January 2025 MMIWG2S+ Roundtable, AFN Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe and the former AFN Women's Council Chairperson Connie Big Eagle attended and met the newly appointed Chief Advisor to Combat Human Trafficking, Jennifer Richardson. The AFN Women's Council has maintained further



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engagement with the Chief Advisor, putting forward recommendations such as how (1) the Chief Advisor should be meeting with all regions, especially rural and remote First Nations, and (2) there should be an implementation plan committed to by Public Safety Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to address the Chief Advisor's recommendations because it is often the case that recommendations are put forward but no action is taken.

On July 8, 2025, the AFN participated in the 2025 Indigenous Federal Provincial Territorial (IFPT) meeting on the Status of Women in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and led on the agenda item titled, "Unlocking potential: The economic empowerment of Indigenous women." AFN Women's Council provided input into the agenda and offered insight to support AFN's interventions at this IFPT.

On November 6, 2025, the AFN submitted a formal written brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women (FEWO) for their study of Section 810 of the criminal code and women's safety. The study considers the interaction of Section 810 with recent legislative changes to the Criminal Code and related legislation, including Bills C-75 and C-5, particularly in relation to bail, sentencing, deterrence, and recidivism. Due to their preventive nature, the AFN recommended that section 810 peace bond provisions be strengthened by leveraging specialized courts to enhance the accessibility of judges, Crown prosecutors, and legal aid lawyers who are already trained to assess domestic violence-related criteria. This submission drew heavily on input and discussion from the AFN Women's Council regarding women's safety.

During the December 2025 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, the AFN Women's Council elected a new chairperson, Brenda Vanguard, who is the Council's Alberta Representative and will serve a term of 3 years.

Brenda Gauthier, Northwest Territories representative, and Connie Bigeagle, Saskatchewan representative, attended the March 10th Vatican artifact unveiling ceremony in Ottawa.

On March 10-11, 2026, members from the AFN Women's Council attended a two-day women's economic empowerment and infrastructure training session in Ottawa where they learned about executive financial oversight, financing tools, the procurement lifecycle, and procurement systems.





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On March 12, 2026, members from the AFN Women's Council attended a Fireside Chat with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak and Indigenous Services Canada Minister Mandy Gull-Masty in Ottawa. Women's Council members contributed to discussions focused on First Nation women in leadership challenges and successes, female empowerment, well-being and mental health.

The Path Ahead

It has been seven years since the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) released their final report and 231 Calls for Justice. Since then, only two Calls for Justice have been fully implemented. The AFN Women's Council will continue to advocate that the voices of survivors and families be heard and continue to be engaged during the process of implementing the National Action Plan. The AFN Women's Council will also contribute to the development of an AFN Gender Based Analysis (+) framework.

Looking ahead to 2026, the AFN Women's Council will be engaged in work to prepare for the First Ministers Meeting. The Council will also review their terms of reference and conduct strategic planning to review progress and identify new priorities. The Women's Council will continue to monitor legislative developments that directly impact women's safety and inclusion, like Bill S-228, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code* (sterilization procedures), which is currently in its third reading in the House of Commons. Furthermore, the Women's Council will be looking to center women's involvement in spaces for economic development and resource extraction as it ties into the prevalence of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.





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National Youth Council

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Youth Council (NYC) is a vital organ of the AFN, established under the AFN Charter. The NYC is an advisory body to the AFN Chiefs' Committees, the AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee. The Council represents First Nations youth on issues that affect them and collaborates with leadership at all levels to influence AFN priorities and create opportunities for personal development and empowerment for future generations.

NYC Membership and Representation:

The Council elects two Co-Chairs and two executives annually at the Annual General Assembly (AGA).

2025-26 Council Co-Chairs: Isaiah Bernard (Potlotek First Nation, Nova Scotia Region) and Kiara Labobe (Lennox Island First Nation, Prince Edward Island Region)

NYC Members by Region:

- Yukon: *Ethan Lavallee and Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey*
- Northwest Territories: *Sub Chief George Wrigley*
- British Columbia: *Crystal Lewis and Peyal Laceese (interim)*
- Alberta: *Vacant*
- Saskatchewan: *Caige Starr and Semiah Cote*
- Manitoba: *Julianna Albert and Tim Folster*
- Ontario: *Carter Carpenter and Hanna Sewell*
- Quebec: *Erika Emond, Eve Custeau-Wiscutie, Fanny-Allison Mark, Jonathan Obomsawin*
- New Brunswick: *Vacant*
- Nova Scotia: *Isaiah Bernard and Shyanna Denny*
- Prince Edward Island: *Kiara Labobe*
- Newfoundland: *Braylen LaSaga*

The NYC acknowledges and thanks all alternate and outgoing members whose terms conclude by July 2026.

Key Activities and Accomplishments 2025-2026:

AFN Assemblies

NYC members participated in the 2025 Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA). The NYC advises the Executive Committee on matters affecting First Nations youth and maintains a strong presence at the Assemblies.



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Chiefs Committee Meetings

NYC members attend AFN Chiefs Committee meetings to stay informed on national files and offer youth perspectives on key issues. Each NYC member is expected to lead or support at least one AFN portfolio.

INAN Appearances

On February 12, 2026, NYC Co-Chairs Isaiah Bernard and Kiara LaBobe appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) to speak in support of Bill S-2, *An Act to amend the Indian Act*. They emphasized that recognizing First Nations jurisdiction over citizenship extends beyond legislative changes and requires a co-developed framework.

The co-chairs further noted that the current imposed and assimilative provisions of the Indian Act contradict First Nations' identity and citizenship frameworks, that meaningful reform must allow First Nations to define their own communities, and that changes to citizenship must include adequate, sustainable funding that reflects the real costs of population change and service delivery. Any change must align with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) and its corresponding legislation, the *UN Declaration Act* (UNDA).

Education Forum

From February 24-26, 2026, nine NYC members attended the AFN Education Forum: *Voices for Tomorrow, Lifting our Nations through Lifelong Learning*, held in Vancouver, BC.

On February 25, the NYC presented an interactive workshop addressing various priorities and the unique needs of First Nations youth in education and language revitalization spaces, and exchanging lived experiences with participants.

On February 26, the NYC presented a summary of their discussions from the interactive workshop to the main plenary, outlining recommendations and priorities to advance youth interests in both education and language revitalization spaces. The NYC recommendations include:

- Securing adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding for young people's education
- Promoting on-the-land learning opportunities





Council Reports

- Addressing safety in post-secondary education, including violence, cultural safety, discrimination, trafficking, and residential school denialism
- Creating capacity within the education sector for First Nations teachers, professors, and faculty members
- Accommodating youth's unique circumstances, challenges, and interests through education and language revitalization methods
- Involving youth in the future planning for communities, and ensuring that education systems reflect emerging realities through different education practices

2026 Economic and Infrastructure Summit

On March 2 and 3, the NYC Saskatchewan representative, Serenity Gamble, attended the AFN 2026 Economic and Infrastructure Summit in Montreal, Quebec. The Summit brought together political, business, and finance leaders to build capacity and advance First Nations self-determined approaches to economic development.

The Summit assisted in finding tangible supports, resources, and solutions for projects occurring in First Nations. The Summit further offered a space to learn about the land, resources, and building respectful partnerships.

Repatriation of Artifacts Held by the Vatican Museums

In 2017, First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 106/2017, *Support for International Repatriation of Sacred Items*, directing the AFN to support First Nations in repatriating stolen ancestral remains and other culturally significant items from international repositories, such as the Vatican.

In December 2025, NYC Co-Chair Isaiah Bernard travelled to Frankfurt, Germany, along with other First Nations youth delegates, to accompany the sacred items on the flight back to Canada to ensure a safe, respectful, and culturally aware return of the artifacts to their rightful homes.

On March 10, 2026, NYC members Isaiah Bernard, Kiara LaBobe, Hanna Sewell, and Peyal Laceese attended the artifact unveiling event at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, QC. The NYC members assisted in the safe handling of the artifacts and offered prayers for the items' safe return to their rightful nations.





Council Reports

United Nations (UN) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

In the week of April 20, Ontario representative Hanna Sewell represented the AFN at the 2026 UNPFII. This year's theme was "*Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' health, including in the context of conflict*". The presence of NYC representatives at the UNPFII ensures that First Nations youth voices are heard and reflected on an international scale on matters that impact Indigenous peoples worldwide.

The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

In 2026-27, the NYC will:

- Strengthen collaboration with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
- Support key developments, such as UNDA and Bill S-2
- Enhance NYC internal operations

For more information regarding the NYC, please visit: <https://afn.ca/about-us/councils/youth-council>.





Council Reports



First Nations Veterans Council

Introduction

Since October 2024, the AFN has worked with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) through the Veteran, Family Well-being Fund (VFWF), to strengthen its relationship with VAC. The AFN First Nations Veterans Council (FNVC) began enhancing collaboration between VAC and First Nations veterans nationwide.

First Nations veterans have always held a place of honour within the AFN, reflecting their strong tradition of volunteering in service to both their country and their communities.

FNVC Council Members:

- British Columbia – *Percy Joe, Chair*
- Northwest Territories – *Tim O'Loan*
- Yukon – *Carl Sidney*
- Alberta – *Henry Raine*
- Saskatchewan – *Emile Highway*
- Manitoba – *Chief Lawrence Letandre*
- Ontario – *Wendy Jocko and Gerald (Gerry) McGregor*
- New Brunswick – *Eldon Bernard and Chief Terry Richardson*
- Nova Scotia – *Debbie Eisan and Alan Knockwood*
- Newfoundland – *Prince Edward Island - Ken Bennett*

Key Issues and Activities 2025-2026:

An initial Letter of Understanding (LOU) was signed in April 2023 by the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Chair of the FNVC Percy Joe establishing a joint commitment between the AFN and VAC to address the needs of First Nation Veterans and their families.

2025-2026

The second phase of the LOU was signed on Friday, February 7, 2025, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The renewal LOU reaffirms the commitment to building a strong relationship with VAC and the FNVC. The renewed LOU aims to ensure the development of tangible outcomes and key points include:

1. Assess and Expand Outreach Activities for First Nations Veterans and Their Families
2. Establish Clear Points of Contact for First Nations Veterans Matters at VAC
3. Increase Indigenous Representation in Commemoration-Related Activities.
4. Support the Establishment of a Historical Record of First Nations Veterans and Soldiers who have Served in Times of War, Military Conflicts, and Peace, including those Undocumented by Canada



Council Reports

Accomplishments 2025-2026

Since the renewal of the LOU, the FNVC and VAC have held regular meetings and working sessions to improve services and advance the four priority areas. This marks the second phase of ongoing collaboration to better support First Nations Veterans.

Progress has been made, but significant work remains – particularly in recognizing the contributions of First Nations Veterans to Canada, educating First Nations about First Nations veterans history, developing and maintaining a database of First Nations veterans, and engaging with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to advance reconciliation and healing. The FNVC provides quarterly reports to VAC to measure progress in implementing the four pillars of the LOU.



Outreach

With the FNVC's guidance and partnership, VAC has attended and hosted booths at powwows and shared a booth with the FNVC at AFN Annual General Assemblies (AGA) and Special Chiefs Assemblies (SCA). The Veterans table at the AFN assemblies Circles of Trade shows has been building VAC visibility and attracting increasing numbers of Veterans who are coming forward to inquire about benefits and services.

Historical Records

Since the signing of the LOU, the FNVC has helped identify over 15,000 Indigenous individuals using reliable sources from the Library and Archives Canada (LAC), the Canadian War Museum, the Veteran Wall of Honour, the Last Post Fund, books, and Ancestry.

Parliamentary Advocacy

The FNVC participates in parliamentary studies focused on First Nations active duty service members and First Nations veterans experiences. The FNVC continues to be a strong voice to champion the experiences of First Nations citizens in the armed forces and work to advance the priorities of the LOU.

The Path Ahead Looking Forward

Entering Phase Two of the LOU, the FNVC and VAC continue to strengthen their working relationship. A joint work plan aims to expand regional outreach through Veterans networking sessions. The FNVC remains focused on ensuring First Nations Veterans receive proper recognition and equitable access to VAC programs.

The Veterans Well-being Act affirms Canada's obligation to provide appreciation, services, and compensation to Veterans and their families. Guided by this principle, the FNVC continues to advocate for improved outreach, better access to benefits, and resolution of long-standing issues such as the lack of proper grave markers for many First Nations soldiers buried without proper headstones.



Council Reports



2SLGBTQQIA+ Council

Introduction

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) Council is a principal organ established under Article 23.D of the AFN Charter. Recognizing that 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals are intrinsic to First Nations culture and ceremony, the Council holds a distinct space for these voices in national decision-making structures.

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council provides advocacy and guidance on cultural protocols, governance, and leadership to the First Nations-in-Assembly. By applying a 2SLGBTQQIA+ lens, the Council contributes expertise on critical issues, including health, safety, and the MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan, supporting the broader work of the AFN in advancing the political and social aspirations of 2SLGBTQQIA+ citizens across all regions.

2SLGBTQQIA+ Council Members:

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Terms of Reference (TOR) defines the governing and operational structure for the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council. The TOR formalizes the Council's advisory function to leadership while empowering members to specific portfolios, thereby facilitating direct contributions to key initiatives. The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council includes membership from each of AFN's affiliated regions across Canada.

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council includes:

- British Columbia – *Orene Askew*
- Alberta – *Vacant*
- Saskatchewan – *Keyhew Gopher*
- Manitoba – *Marcel Balfour*
- Ontario – *Mallory Solomon*
- Quebec and Labrador – *Kahsennenhawe Skydeer*
- New Brunswick – *Chief Allan Polchies*
- Prince Edward Island – *Schurman Peters*
- Nova Scotia – *John R. Sylliboy and Muin Ji'j Bernard*
- Newfoundland – *Berty Leamon (Co-Chairperson)*
- Yukon – *Duane Aucoin (Chairperson)*
- Northwest Territories – *Vacant*



Council Reports

Key Issues and Activities 2025-2026:

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council's Strategic Plan continues to serve as a living framework for national advocacy. Priorities within the document assert First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ inherent rights and call for government partners to remain accountable to their established obligations, including the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan*.

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council's work applies an intersectional lens informed by the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice*, the progress documented in *Connecting Hearts and Making Change: Building on Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice*, and the *Special Interlocutor's Indigenous-Led Reparations Framework*.

This approach sets clear expectations for our partners to engage with 2SLGBTQQIA+ in a meaningful and consistent manner. Ultimately, this work moves beyond general advocacy, placing 2SLGBTQQIA+ perspectives at the heart of decision-making and support across all levels of governance.

These continued priorities include:

1. **Truth Telling** — to address the role colonization has played in the marginalization and displacement of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community and ensure that 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are not treated as an afterthought in areas like health, research, and policy development.
2. **Moving the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council Forward** — to ensure the Council has the tools and resources required to affect change and implement its strategic plan for future generations.
3. **Collaboration and Relationship Building** — to work in collaboration with other AFN Councils, governments, regional organizations, and nations to respond to the needs of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.
4. **Education and Knowledge Translation** — to combat the growing intolerance movement in Canada by advocating for education that normalizes and celebrates the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community and culture.

The Path Ahead:

The path ahead centers on truth, reclamation, and sustainable support for 2SLGBTQQIA+ voices and leadership. Through collaborative partnerships, the Council addresses historical exclusion by holding all levels of government accountable to their obligations. By amplifying the perspectives of 2SLGBTQQIA+ in decision-making and community life, the Council continues to advance these priorities.





CEO Report





CEO Report



Chief Executive Officer Report

Aaaniin, Pjil'asi, OKI, Kwe kwe, Boozhoo, Tan'si, Gilakas'la, She:kon

Chiefs, Elders and other delegates – welcome to the 2026 Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly. It has been nearly two years since I stepped into this role, and I continue to consider it an honour and a privilege to serve as CEO of the AFN. This is a crucial responsibility, working with our staff to ensure the AFN fulfills its duty to advance the priorities of First Nations leadership and support the needs of our communities across Turtle Island. Underpinning all these efforts is a stabilized, dynamic working environment within the organization.

Progress over the last year

The last twelve months have been busy and productive. Throughout the year we held numerous forums on a variety of topics, bringing First Nations leaders, technicians and other representatives together for important dialogue. These gatherings reinforced our role as a convener in bringing together First Nations leadership and voices from coast to coast to coast.

Over the first few months of 2026, we have convened a series of virtual town hall sessions with First Nations leadership across the country to discuss the planning for the upcoming First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting (FNFMM), tentatively scheduled for Fall 2026. AFN senior leadership has also been attending regional First Nations organizations' meetings to further inform leadership and gather direction to guide FNFMM meeting planning. The FNFMM represents a historic opportunity for First Nations leadership to come together with the Prime Minister and Premiers to discuss our priorities and set a path forward. The AFN will continue to support Chiefs as part of this process.

One of my key objectives has been to improve communication from the AFN head office to First Nations leadership, and subsequently the AFN recently began sending monthly email updates on its work to Chiefs across Canada.

Adapting to a Shifting Political Landscape

The AFN continues to navigate a shift in national priorities as Canada works to strengthen its economy in response to emerging national and international challenges. The AFN must continue to be ready to meet the challenges and help ensure that First Nations priorities are not only heard but reflected in national policies and planning, and that our rights, our people and our lands are respected. This is especially important as it relates to the building of major projects. First Nations must be at the table from the outset — as full partners, not “stakeholders” or afterthoughts.



CEO Report

The Role of the AFN

It is critical for the AFN CEO to remain steadfast to the AFN's fundamental role:

supporting Chiefs and First Nations communities — not to speak for them. The AFN must provide clear, timely, and relevant information and analysis on national and regional developments to help inform First Nations leadership and citizens, and to ensure they have the information to make decisions for their communities. First Nations are the rights holders, not the AFN.

We must continue to serve as a national forum where our First Nations leaders come together to discuss issues of shared interest, collaborate on solutions, and exchange best practices. A strong, united AFN is a powerful asset for all First Nations, and unity will be more important than ever in the months and years ahead.

Looking Ahead

The work before us is immense, but so is the opportunity. With the right structure, partnerships, and commitment to transparency, inclusion and collaboration, the AFN can be even more effective in supporting First Nations leadership across the country.

Thank you for your continued trust and leadership. I look forward to continuing to lead the AFN Secretariat with integrity, purpose, and a deep commitment to serving First Nations leadership and advancing our collective priorities. I look forward to seeing you all at the 2026 Annual General Assembly.

Miigwech.

Andrew Bisson
Chief Executive Officer





Branch & Sector Reports



Branch & Sector Reports



Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch

The Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch (EDI) advances First Nations jurisdiction over infrastructure, fisheries, and economic development while improving program delivery. It supports economic participation, protects rights-based economic capacity, and promotes First Nations control to help close the socio-economic and infrastructure gaps.

Branches Key Issues and Activities:

Housing and Infrastructure

The Housing and Infrastructure sector works in close coordination with the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI) and the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM) to close the infrastructure gap in First Nations communities and advance the AFN's emergency management, housing, infrastructure, drinking water, and homelessness mandates. Closing the infrastructure gap means

ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water, housing, and essential infrastructure and addressing longstanding deficits that impact health and wellbeing, while supporting First Nations-led solutions aligned with community needs.

Accomplishments 2025-2026:

Housing

The Sector continued advocating for the inclusion of First Nations priorities within major federal housing initiatives, including Build Canada Homes and the Build Communities Strong Fund. Following the introduction of Bill C-20, the Sector identified critical gaps related to First Nations representation, rights recognition, and distinctions-based funding, resulting in formal submissions and recommendations to Parliament. The Sector also launched a dedicated Bill C-20 microsite to support First Nations engagement and advocacy. The Sector also advanced updates to the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy ahead of its ten-year anniversary, engaged federal partners on the development of the Indigenous Housing Strategy and renewal of the National Housing Strategy to advocate for transparent, distinctions-based engagement with First Nations, along with continued advocacy to ensure federal housing initiatives include First Nations representation, rights recognition, and dedicated housing investments.

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 10/2025, *Ensure Adequate and Equitable Levels of Social Housing and Funding*
- Resolution 60/2022, *First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy*
- Resolution 57/2018, *National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy*





Branch & Sector Reports

Homelessness

The Sector works closely with the federal Department of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities (HICC) to ensure First Nations perspectives are reflected in the administration and renewal of Reaching Home's First Nations distinctions-based stream. Through the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Homelessness, the Sector supported information sharing, engagement on program renewal, and the development of recommendations reflecting First Nations priorities for future homelessness programming. The Sector also participated in HICC's evaluation of the Reaching Home Indigenous Streams to provide First Nations-specific input on future program design and funding approaches, advanced research on homelessness among First Nations Veterans to support advocacy for more targeted and culturally relevant supports and resources, and advocated for the renewal of Reaching Home beyond 2028 in a manner that reflects First Nations priorities and distinctions-based approaches.

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 75/2023, *Approval and Implementation of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan*

Infrastructure

The Sector continued advancing advocacy to close the First Nations infrastructure gap by producing Closing the Infrastructure Gap 2.0 – an update to the 2023 Closing the Infrastructure Gap (CTIG) report. The 2026 CTIG 2.0 report estimates the amount required to address growing infrastructure, housing, water, and community infrastructure needs has grown from \$349.2 billion to \$376.1 billion over 10 years. The report promotes a coordinated, long-term approach to infrastructure investment, governance, and nation-building. The Sector also hosted the 2026 Economic and Infrastructure Summit on March 2–3, 2026, which focused on advancing First Nations economic development, housing, and infrastructure priorities, while exploring alternative financing models and innovative infrastructure opportunities to support First Nations economic growth and participation.

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 09/2022, *Targeted Support to Improve First Nations Fire Protection*
- Resolution 26/2021, *Support for Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030*

Water and Wastewater

The Sector continued advocating for renewed First Nations water legislation after Bill C-61 an *Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nations lands* died on the order paper after Parliament was prorogued in January 2025. Guided by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly, the Sector advanced advocacy efforts focused on the reintroduction of the legislation. The Sector hosted Virtual Forum Series webinars during the 2025 federal election period to engage federal parties on their commitment to reintroduce First Nations water legislation; advanced post-election advocacy through meetings and correspondence with Prime Minister Mark Carney and Minister Mandy Gull-Masty calling for the immediate introduction of renewed First Nations water legislation aligned with previously identified First Nations priorities, and; convened strategic sessions with Regional Water Coordinators to identify regional priorities and strengthen coordinated regional and national advocacy efforts related to water and wastewater legislation and policy.



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Key Resolutions

- Resolution 43/2024, *Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act*
- Resolution 47/2023, *Proposed Federal First Nations Drinking Water and Wastewater Legislation*

Emergency Management

The Sector continued advancing First Nations emergency management advocacy and coordination through Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM) meetings held in October 2025 and March 2026. These engagements supported the refinement of advocacy priorities ahead of federal-provincial-territorial discussions on emergency management and strengthened collaboration among First Nations leadership, emergency management partners, and key agencies ahead of the 2026 emergency season. The Sector also advocated for more equitable allocation of First Nations emergency management funding and increased accountability for service providers delivering emergency management services in First Nations communities; advanced discussions on addressing systemic gaps in Canada's emergency response systems that limit the mobilization and recognition of First Nations emergency management capacity and resources, and; supported advocacy efforts to increase investments in First Nations emergency management capacity.

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 32/2025, *Support for First Nations' Multilateral Negotiations and Implementation of Emergency Management*
- Resolution 31/2025, *Supporting First Nations through the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council*

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The path ahead requires a coordinated, rights-based approach across economic development, housing and infrastructure, and fisheries to advance First Nations jurisdiction and close longstanding gaps. This work must move beyond federal-led processes toward true co-development and co-drafting with First Nations as equal partners. Priorities include securing sustained, long-term funding, strengthening First Nations control over programs and services, and supporting community-led solutions that reflect local needs and priorities. By aligning efforts across sectors, the Branch will continue to advance economic reconciliation, improve infrastructure and housing outcomes, and support the overall wellbeing and self-determination of First Nations communities.





Branch & Sector Reports



Economic Development Sector

The Economic Development Sector, mandated by First Nations in Assembly and guided by the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) and the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources (CCoLTR) drives seven priority areas: natural resources, connectivity, international trade, procurement, labour markets, lands management, and the new fiscal relationship.

Accomplishments 2025-2026:

Natural Resources

The AFN is supporting the development of a First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy. On February 10-11, 2026, the AFN held its second National Natural Resources Forum in Treaty 7 territories of the Blackfoot confederacy, the Îlethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations, and the Tsuut'ina Nation. More than 500 participants gathered to advance First Nations sovereignty, economic participation, and environmental stewardship across the energy, mining, and forestry sectors.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 56/2025, *First Nations-led Critical Minerals Strategy*
- Resolution 72/2023, *First Nations-Led Procurement Organization and the National Benefits Sharing Framework (NBSF)*
- Resolution 70/2023, *Support for Treaty and Inherent Rights to Tax and Tariff Exceptions*

Connectivity

With the societal transition to virtual technologies and digital landscapes, strong and stable internet connectivity in First Nations is essential. The AFN continues to push for better connectivity, spectrum access, and dedicated First Nations funding streams to support access to the internet. AFN submitted responses to Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) calls for comments on policy issues. Through the Net Good program by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA), the AFN is also developing a First Nations Spectrum Licensing Assessment Report to recommend spectrum licensing processes that uphold First Nations rights.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 08/2023, *Government Support for First Nations Digital Connectivity and Spectrum Sovereignty*
- Resolution 30/2021, *Government Income Support Programs and First Nations Digital Connectivity*





Branch & Sector Reports

International Trade

The AFN continues to push for greater global and inter-nation market access for First Nations goods and services, advocating for Indigenous general exception chapters in trade and investment agreements and stronger supports for First Nations businesses. In March 2026, the National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak attended the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) 2026 Reservation Economic Summit where the AFN-NCAI Declaration was renewed. This reaffirmation strengthened the cross-border partnership between First Nations and Native Americans nations.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 07/2025, *Advancing First Nations Trade and Economies Through a First Nations Trade Strategy*
- Resolution 08/2025, *Advancing Nation-to-Nation Trade*

Procurement

The AFN participated on the First Nations Procurement Organization Steering Committee until the First Nations Procurement Authority (FNPA) was incorporated on May 1, 2025. It now holds an observer seat on the FNPA board and continues to push for operational support. In May 2025, National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak attended the NACCA National Prosperity Forum, underscoring how procurement drives First Nations economic growth and the need to boost First Nations participation in federal procurement.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 72/2023, *First Nations-Led Procurement Organization and the National Benefits-Sharing Framework*

Labour Market

The AFN hosted its annual in-person meeting for the First Nations Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program agreement holders on September 17 & 18, 2025. A special recognition event was held, honouring and celebrating the achievements of individuals and First Nations ISET Agreement Holder organizations advancing employment and training for First Nations across Canada.





Branch & Sector Reports

In September 2025, AFN completed a Labor Market Initiative (LMI) Business Case calling for permanent funding to transition the First Nations Labour Market Information (LMI) Pilot into a fully funded national ISET program. With the pilot ending March 31, 2026, the LMI Business case proposes \$65.68 million annually, with a 2% escalator starting in 2026.

In early 2026, the AFN held regional engagement sessions nationwide on the Pay Equity Act, gathering First Nations perspectives on how the legislation could affect their First Nations.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 48/2021, *Traditional Occupations and Traditional Economies*
- Resolution 74/2023, *Wage Parity for First Nations*
- Resolution 64/2024, *First Nations Labour Market Information*

Lands Management

The AFN worked with First Nations leadership and technicians on specific claims, additions to reserve (ATR), and federal recognition. It advocated for increased specific claims research funding, including through the AFN's pre-budget submissions and budget advocacy. The AFN maintained its mandated role in ATR policy redesign, including through the Crown - Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Technical Advisory Committee on ATR. This year, it completed joint work with affected First Nations and Indigenous Services Canada on federal recognition for landless and bandless First Nations, producing joint "what we heard" reports and an appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 70/2024, *Full Involvement of First Nations in Additions to Reserve Re-Design*
- Resolution 57/2025, *Condemning Canada's Specific Claims Research Funding Cuts*
- Resolution 59/2025, *Strategic Direction on Land Restitution and Compensation*





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New Fiscal Relationship

Co-developed with Indigenous Services Canada and the First Nations Financial Management Board, the NFR Grant expanded eligibility to include tribal councils and health authorities. As of May 2026, 191 First Nations and service delivery organizations had opted in. As of 2025, the grant delivered an additional \$101.6 million to participating First Nations.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 45/2023, *Support for First Nations to Receive Funding for Off-Reserve Members*
- Resolution 46/2023, *Support for Increases to Tribal Council Funding*
- Resolution 37/2024, *Support for Sufficient, Predictable and Sustainable Funding for First Nations*

Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

Amid rising geopolitical uncertainty, these priority areas taken on new urgency. The Economic Development Sector will keep working to advance the mandates set by First Nations in Assembly and support First Nations assertion of rights and self-determination.





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Housing and Infrastructure Sector

The Housing and Infrastructure sector works with the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI) and the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM) to close the infrastructure gap in First Nations communities and advance mandates on emergency management, housing, infrastructure, drinking water, and homelessness. Closing the infrastructure gap means ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water, housing, and essential infrastructure, addressing longstanding deficits affecting health and wellbeing, while supporting First Nations-led solutions aligned with community needs. This includes distinctions-based, culturally appropriate approaches to homelessness. The Sector's emergency management work strengthens prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery to protect communities from climate and infrastructure-related risks. It also provides Secretariat support for the AFN Women's Council.

Accomplishments 2025-2026:

Housing

The Sector continued advocating for the inclusion of First Nations priorities in major federal housing initiatives, including Build Canada Homes and the Build Communities Strong Fund. After Bill C-20 was introduced, the Sector identified critical gaps in First Nations representation, rights recognition, and distinctions-based funding, leading to formal submissions and recommendations to Parliament. The Sector launched a dedicated Bill C-20 microsite to support First Nations engagement and advocacy.

The Sector advanced updates to the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy ahead of its ten-year anniversary and engaged federal partners on the Indigenous Housing Strategy and renewal of the National Housing Strategy, emphasizing transparent, distinctions-based engagement and dedicated First Nations housing investments. The Sector continues to advocate for adequate and equitable funding through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 60/2022, *First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy*
- Resolution 10/2025, *Ensure Adequate and Equitable Levels of Social Housing and Funding*

Homelessness

The Sector works with the federal Department of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities (HICC) to ensure First Nations perspectives shape the administration and renewal of Reaching Home's First Nations distinctions-based stream. Through a Sub-Committee on Homelessness, the Sector supported information sharing, engagement on program renewal, and the development of First Nations-driven recommendations for future homelessness programming. The Sector participated in HICC's evaluation of the Reaching Home



Branch & Sector Reports

Indigenous Streams to provide First Nations-specific input on future program design and funding approaches. The Sector also advanced research on homelessness among First Nations Veterans to support advocacy for more targeted and culturally relevant supports and resources and advocated for renewing Reaching Home beyond 2028 in alignment with First Nations priorities and distinctions-based approaches.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 75/2023, *Approval and Implementation of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan*

Infrastructure

The Sector advancing advocacy to close the First Nations infrastructure gap by releasing Closing the Infrastructure Gap 2.0, an update to the 2023 report. The 2026 CTIG 2.0 report estimates that the investment needed to address growing infrastructure, housing, water, and community infrastructure needs has risen from \$349.2 billion to \$376.1 billion over 10 years. It calls for a coordinated, long-term approach to infrastructure investment, governance, and nation-building.

The Sector also strengthened CTIG communications to support federal budget advocacy and raise public awareness of the infrastructure gap; analyzed the impacts of inflation, supply-chain pressures, and tariffs on First Nations infrastructure costs and project delivery; delivered the First Nations Fire Protection Strategy webinar series to support implementation, engagement, and knowledge sharing on fire protection priorities; advocated for the renewal of the First Nations Fire Protection Strategy and ongoing support for the Fire and Life Safety Application.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 26/2021, *Support for Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030*
- Resolution 09/2022, *Targeted Support to Improve First Nations Fire Protection*





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Water and Wastewater

The Sector advocated for renewed First Nations water legislation after Bill C-61, an Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nations lands, died on the order paper after Parliament was prorogued in January 2025. The Sector focused on securing the reintroduction of similar legislation modeled after Bill C-61 through letters and meetings with Prime Minister Mark Carney and Minister Mandy Gull-Masty. The Sector also convened strategic sessions with Regional Water Coordinators to identify regional priorities and strengthen coordinated regional and national advocacy efforts related to water and wastewater legislation and policy.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 43/2024, *Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act*
- Resolution 47/2023, *Proposed Federal First Nations Drinking Water and Wastewater Legislation*

Emergency Management

The Sector advanced First Nations emergency management advocacy and coordination through the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM) meetings held in October 2025 and March 2026. These engagements refined advocacy priorities for federal-provincial-territorial discussions and strengthened collaboration among First Nations leadership, emergency management partners, and key agencies ahead of the 2026 emergency season. The Sector also pushed for equitable allocation of funding for First Nations emergency management, greater accountability for service providers delivering services in First Nations communities, and action on systemic gaps that limit the mobilization and recognition of First Nations emergency management capacity. Additional advocacy focused on increasing investments in First Nations emergency management capacity, including wildland firefighters, and the ensuring First Nations leadership is included in emergency operations and coordination centres.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 32/2025, *Support for First Nations' Multilateral Negotiations and Implementation of Emergency Management*
- Resolution 31/2025, *Supporting First Nations through the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council*

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

A coordinated, rights-based approach across economic development, housing and infrastructure, and fisheries is needed to advance First Nations jurisdiction and close longstanding gaps. This requires shifting from federal-led processes to true co-development and co-drafting with First Nations as equal partners. Key priorities include securing sustained, long-term funding, strengthening First Nations control over programs and services, and supporting community-led solutions that reflect local needs and priorities. By aligning efforts across sectors, the Branch will continue to advance economic reconciliation, improve infrastructure and housing outcomes, and support the overall wellbeing and self-determination of First Nations communities.



Branch & Sector Reports



Fisheries Sector

Fisheries: The AFN advocates for First Nations' rights-based fisheries, and promotes First Nations jurisdiction, governance and management in federal legislative processes, programming and policies. This core advocacy is guided by the National Fisheries Committee.

Accomplishments 2025-2026:

Fisheries Act 5-Year Review

In Fall 2025, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) resumed its review of the *Fisheries Act*. The AFN responded with oral testimony in November 2025 and submitted a technical brief supporting Resolution 22/2024.

The AFN's submission presented legislative amendments to align the Fisheries Act with the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and key Supreme Court Case decisions, including Sparrow (1990) and Marshall (1999). These amendments would strengthen the Minister of Fisheries obligations to uphold and protect First Nations' Section 35 rights in decision-making under the Act. The AFN continues to advocate for recognition of First Nation jurisdiction, governance, and fisheries management.

The also AFN wrote to the Minister of Fisheries and to the Secretary of State (Nature) requesting a meeting in May 2026 to raise these issues directly.

- Key Resolution: 22/2024, *Fisheries Act 5-Year Review to Ensure Alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC)

First Nation Inland freshwater fishers have a long-standing relationship with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC). Although First Nations make up the largest group of sellers to the FFMC, they have been consistently underpaid for their work and their catches. The federal government's April 2024 announcement of its intent to divest the FFMC created a major opportunity for First Nations to shift from selling catches to the FFMC, to owning and governing it.

The AFN has long advocated for protection harvesting livelihoods, strengthening First Nations governance in aquatic sectors, and expanding meaningful economic participation across resource value chains. These principles underpin its support for the First Nations-led consortium seeking ownership and management of the FFMC. First Nations must be involved in any process to reform or sell the FFMC. Accordingly, the AFN supported key provisions of Bill C-15 (45-1), the *Budget Implementation Act, 2025, N°1*, which authorized the FFMC divestiture and dissolution as a Crown corporation. While the divestiture process remains confidential, a decision on the successful proponent is expected in Summer or Fall of 2026, and the AFN remains engaged and supportive.

- Key Resolution: 20/2024, *First Nations inclusion in the Transformation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation*



Branch & Sector Reports

Oceans Protection Plan Technical Working Group

The AFN continues to support Resolution 21/2024, which guides its participation in the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) Technical Working Group (TWG) with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard. The TWG work includes developing a “What We Are Hearing” report based on feedback from First Nations, federal officials, and other stakeholders about their experiences with the OPP and its partnership approaches.

The TWG held its first workshop in Ottawa in January 2026 with First Nations representatives to assess the quality of their partnerships with the Government of Canada under the OPP. A second workshop is planned for June 2026. Through this work, the AFN will continue engaging with affected and interested First Nations and stakeholders to ensure First Nations perspectives inform ongoing OPP initiatives.

- Key Resolution: 21/2024, *First Nations Continued Inclusion in Canada’s Oceans Protection Plan and Marine Safety Emergency Planning*

Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The National Fisheries Committee (NFC) has developed its 2026-2028 Strategic Plan and will create a workplan with indicators to support its strategic directions. Some directions are already guided by existing resolutions, while others present opportunities for new resolutions and further NFC guidance. Through this ongoing planning cycle, the NFC continues to refine its mandate in a manageable way that responds to a shifting political landscape, with support from the AFN.

The AFN remains committed to advocating for investments in co-jurisdiction, co-governance, and co-management of Canada’s fisheries. It consistently participates in Parliamentary Committee hearings and meetings with Cabinet members to highlight the need for increased resources for fish conservation and habitat protection.

With the renewal of the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative and new funding for Canada’s National Strategy to Ensure the Future of Atlantic Salmon, the AFN will continue working with like-minded organizations to advocate for funding to flow directly to First Nations leading salmon restoration, conservation and habitat protection efforts.





Branch & Sector Reports



Environment, Water & Justice Branch

The AFN Environment, Water, and Justice (EWJ) Branch honours the sovereignty and self-determination of First Nations by upholding the First Nations' knowledge and values essential to all relationships within Creation. Acting within the mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly, the EWJ Branch provides support to advance the protection of lands and waters while advocating for the systemic justice reforms required to support the well-being of First Nations people. The AFN promotes a holistic approach to the prosperity of First Nations while asserting the inherent rights of present and future generations.

Branch Key Issues and Activities:

The relationship between First Nations and the environment is founded on the principle of reciprocity. First Nations maintain responsibilities to the waters, lands, and all living beings through the exercise of their inherent rights, jurisdiction, and governance. Guided by First Nations Knowledge Systems and the mandates provided by First Nations-in-Assembly, the EWJ Branch advances strategic advocacy, policy reform, and capacity-building initiatives to support the protection of lands and waters, strengthen First Nations governance, and advance systemic justice reform.

To further this mandate, the AFN advances five interrelated objectives:

1. Advancing legislative reform that recognizes and upholds the inherent, Treaty, and constitutionally protected rights of First Nations and affirms First Nations jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and governance systems.
2. Advocating for equitable, sustainable, and direct funding mechanisms that enable First Nations to exercise jurisdiction and implement environmental, water, and justice priorities.
3. Promoting First Nations-led policy solutions that address environmental, social, and justice-related inequities and support self-determined community priorities.
4. Embedding rights-based approaches across federal processes to ensure First Nations priorities, leadership, and decision-making authority are reflected in policy, program, and legislative development.
5. Supporting First Nations leadership and governance in the stewardship of lands and waters and in advancing justice, public safety, and community well-being through Nation-driven approaches.





Branch & Sector Reports



Environment Sector

Guided by mandates from the First Nations-in-Assembly, the Environment Sector advances First Nations priorities across four core areas: Climate Action, Conservation and Biodiversity, Environmental Health, and Impact Assessment.

Accomplishments 2025-2026

Key accomplishments included:

- Advanced development of the National Climate Lens Toolkit through a national webinar series with First Nations participants.
- Facilitated bilateral discussions under the First Nations Advocacy Initiative for a Chemical Management Plan (FNAICMP) to advance First Nations priorities in federal chemicals management.
- Hosted the first National Conservation Gathering in Membertou, Nova Scotia, bringing together nearly 300 First Nation conservation practitioners to strengthen collaboration and support First Nations-led conservation.
- Supported First Nations leadership and participation at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Brazil.
- Convened a national workshop on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and wildlife health, bringing together Knowledge Keepers, youth, harvesters, and technical experts to share perspectives and develop communication resources.

First Nations Climate Action

The AFN continued implementation of the National Climate Strategy through engagement activities supporting the development of the First Nations Climate Lens Toolkit. Planning is underway for the 4th National Climate Gathering, to be held in Hamilton, Ontario, in October 2026.

The Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) convened during 2025-2026, including engagement with the Minister of Environment, Climate Change. The AFN also continues to monitor implementation of recommendations developed through the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda.

To support First Nations participation at COP 30, the AFN developed and released the position paper *Centering First Nations Self-determination in Transformative Climate Action at COP30*. Guided by this work, the AFN advocated for direct access to climate funding, stronger human rights commitments within international climate agreements, and greater recognition of First Nations leadership within UNFCCC processes.

- Key Resolutions: 36/2023, *Urgent and Transformative Climate Action through the AFN National Climate Strategy*



Branch & Sector Reports

Conservation and Biodiversity

The AFN continued to advance First Nations leadership in conservation and biodiversity through policy advocacy, engagement, and support for distinctions-based funding approaches.

The first National Conservation Gathering strengthened collaboration among First Nations conservation practitioners and highlighted successful First Nations-led stewardship initiatives. The AFN also convened the fifth meeting of the First Nations Nature Table, with a focus on long-term conservation funding and support for First Nations-led conservation initiatives.

The AFN advanced work related to Chronic Wasting Disease and broader wildlife health issues through engagement with First Nations, federal partners, and the CWD Working Group, including development of a CWD Position Paper and hosting a national workshop on wildlife health.

- Key Resolutions: 53/2025, *Support for International Partnership with Indigenous Peoples on Joint Climate and Biodiversity Action*

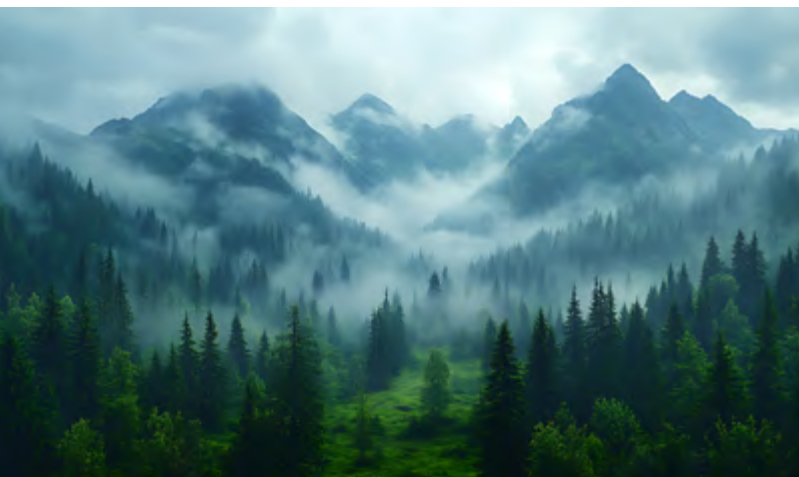
Environmental Health

The AFN continued advocacy to strengthen environmental health protections and advance First Nations' influence within federal regulatory systems.

Through the First Nations Advocacy Initiative for a Chemical Management Plan, the AFN convened a Circle of Experts to review the federal chemical management processes and support ongoing advocacy for a permanent bilateral mechanism with Canada.

The AFN also participated in the Joint Table on First Nation Waste Management to address infrastructure and regulatory gaps, while contributing to the development of a federal Health Impact Assessment Policy Framework. Additional advocacy focused on the implementation of the Right to a Healthy Environment and the development of a National Environmental Justice Strategy, emphasizing cumulative effects and the inclusion of First Nations Knowledge Systems within federal decision-making processes.

- Key Resolutions: 26/2024, *First Nations Participation in the Development of a Right to a Healthy Environment Implementation Framework and Environmental Justice Strategy*





Branch & Sector Reports

Impact Assessment of Major Projects

The AFN continued engagement with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to support First Nations involvement in regulatory development and implementation, consistent with Resolution 95/2024.

This included submissions on provincial cooperation agreements and ongoing discussions regarding changes to federal major projects review processes, including the establishment of the Major Projects Office. The AFN continues to monitor these developments and advocate for approaches that uphold First Nations rights, jurisdiction, and decision-making authority.

- Key Resolutions: Resolution 95/2024, *First Nations Leadership in Impact Assessments*

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

The AFN will continue advocating for First Nations leadership in climate action, conservation, environmental health, and impact assessment processes.

Key priorities include participation in international biodiversity discussions, including COP17 under the Convention on Biological Diversity; advancing distinctions-based conservation funding, strengthening First Nations leadership in chemicals, waste management, and environmental justice initiatives; and ensuring federal impact assessment and major project review processes respect First Nations rights, jurisdiction, and Knowledge Systems.

The AFN will continue to promote First Nations-led approaches that move beyond consultation toward decision-making and self-determination, ensuring environmental governance frameworks support First Nations' responsibilities to lands, waters, and future generations.





Branch & Sector Reports



Water Sector

Water: The AFN advocates for First Nations water stewardship by ensuring that policies, legislation, programs, and initiatives affecting waters reflect First Nations rights, priorities, Knowledge Systems, and governance. Guided by the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE), the Water Sector's work focuses on three priority areas: Marine Conservation and Biodiversity, Freshwater Protection, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Accomplishments 2025-2026:

Marine Conservation and Biodiversity

The AFN advanced First Nations leadership in marine conservation through policy advocacy, capacity-building initiatives, and engagement in domestic and international processes.

Key accomplishments include:

- Identified priority actions to implement recommendations from the AFN's 2023 Marine IPCA Report and support alignment with the *UN Declaration Act*.
- Worked with First Nations technicians, leaders, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to develop a Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Toolkit that will support First Nations' capacity and participation in marine conservation initiatives.
- Advocated for legislative reform, shared governance approaches, and dedicated long-term funding through participation in federal and international processes, including parliamentary studies on the Fisheries Act Review and Marine and Coastal Protections, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Oceans Conference.

Key Resolutions: 96/2024, *Advancing First Nations-led Marine Conservation and IPCAs*

Freshwater Protection and Stewardship

The AFN advanced First Nations-led freshwater protection and governance by ensuring First Nations rights, responsibilities, and legal orders remain central to Canada's water agenda.

Key accomplishments include:

- Hosted the 2026 AFN Nuclear Waste Management Forum, *Navigating Nuclear Waste with Sovereignty and Self-Determination*, bringing together approximately 200 First Nation leaders and technicians to advance key resolutions to strengthen technical understanding, share perspectives, and support informed decision-making grounded in First Nations rights, jurisdiction, and the protection of lands and waters.





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- Developed a discussion paper examining limitations of the *Canada Water Act* to support First Nations dialogue on potential legislative reforms, informed by guidance from ACE, the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI), and Regional Water Coordinators.
- National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak met with Environment and Climate Change Canada Minister Julie Dabrusin to advocate for sustained and predictable funding for First Nations engagement in Canada Water Act modernization, a First Nations-led Water Governance Taskforce, and freshwater protection initiatives.

Key Resolutions: 52/2023, Securing Accountability of Nuclear Technology, Waste, Transport and Storage

Sustainable Development Goals

The AFN advanced a First Nations-led pathway to achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda through targeted advocacy and engagement.

Key accomplishments include:

- Co-hosted a webinar with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) on embedding First Nations realities within the SDGs, highlighting approaches to First Nations data governance and AFN work on First Nations-specific SDG analysis.
- Portfolio Holder Regional Chief Andrea Paul represented the AFN at the UN Oceans Conference in Nice, France, advancing First Nations priorities related to SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and First Nations-led approaches to marine conservation and fisheries management.
- Responded to Canada's Draft 2026-2029 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, reinforcing that First Nations laws, governance systems, Knowledge Systems, and priorities must be reflected in implementation strategies, consistent with key Resolution mandates.

Key Resolutions: 44/2021, Support for a First Nations-led Pathway to the SDGs





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Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

Marine Conservation and Biodiversity

The AFN will continue advancing recommendations from AFN's Marine IPCA Report through policy reform, shared governance approaches, capacity-building initiatives, and advocacy for sustainable funding. Development of the Marine IPCA Toolkit will continue through engagements with First Nations. The AFN will also advocate for meaningful First Nations participation in international biodiversity processes, including implementation of the [High Seas Treaty](#), in a manner that respects First Nations rights, responsibilities, Knowledge Systems, and priorities. A resolution supporting First Nations participation in the implementation of the Treaty will be presented at the Annual General Assembly.

Freshwater Protection

Building on outcomes from the Nuclear Waste Management Forum, the AFN will finalize a post- forum report and continue engagement on nuclear development and waste management. This work will support coordinated advocacy, strengthen regional engagement, and advance rights-based approaches with Canada and nuclear proponents.

The AFN will also continue advancing priorities related to freshwater protection and governance, including source water protection, modernization of the *Canada Water Act*, development of a National Water Security Strategy, and establishment of a First Nations-led Water Governance Taskforce in collaboration with Chiefs and technical committees.

Sustainable Development Goals

The AFN will continue developing a First Nations-led approach to achieving the SDGs through a discussion paper and engagement process with First Nations leadership and technical experts. This work will help inform AFN's contribution to Canada's 2027 Voluntary National Review and support the integration of First Nations priorities, perspectives, and Knowledge Systems into national SDG implementation.





Branch & Sector Reports



Justice Sector

The AFN advances mandates supporting reforms to legislative, policy, and justice systems to address systemic racism and improve safety and well-being for First Nations. Through First Nations-led approaches, the sector advances priorities such as policing reform, revitalization of First Nations justice systems, implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and addressing critical issues, including overrepresentation in the justice system and violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Accomplishments 2025-2026:

Justice Reform

The AFN advanced First Nations-led justice reform through the development and implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS).

- Released the First Nations Justice Strategy on June 11, 2025, following three years of national and regional engagement and guidance from the Chiefs Committee on Justice.
- Advanced a First Nations-led vision for justice reform through 25 strategies focused on transforming Canada's criminal justice system and revitalizing First Nations laws, governance, and legal traditions.
- Appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Rights during its study on bail reform to advocate for First Nations control of Healing Lodges and a First Nations strategy to address over-incarceration.

Key Resolutions:

- 15/2024, *Call for Renewed Support of Codevelopment and Implementation of the IJS*
- 14/2024, *Call for Co-Developed Decarceration Strategy and Full Implementation of the Correctional Investigator Recommendations*

First Nations Policing

The AFN continued to advocate for recognition of First Nations policing as an essential service and for the exercise of First Nations jurisdiction over community safety.

- Advanced First Nations policing priorities through engagement with federal decision-makers and parliamentary processes.
- National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs to advocate for legislation recognizing First Nations jurisdiction over policing, essential service designation, and equitable, long-term funding.





Branch & Sector Reports

- Continued advocacy to ensure policing reform remains a priority in discussions with federal, provincial, and territorial governments, including opportunities associated with a First Nations First Ministers Meeting.

Key Resolutions:

- 63/2024, *Call for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths*

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+

The AFN continued advancing implementation of the Calls for Justice and addressing systemic violence affecting First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

- Released the 2025 Progress Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, with a focus on human trafficking and persistent implementation gaps.
- Strengthened advocacy for First Nations-led prevention, improved accountability, implementation of the Red Dress Alert, data sovereignty, and coordinated violence prevention initiatives.
- Regional Chief Andrea Paul led an AFN delegation to the 70th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, advocating for improved access to justice and highlighting priorities affecting First Nations women and girls.

Key Resolutions:

- 29/2025, *Support for Sustained Funding for Men and Boys Healing Programs to Prevent MMIWG2S and Uphold the 231 Calls for Justice*

Truth and Reconciliation

The AFN continues to advocate for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and accountability for reconciliation commitments.

- Continued monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Calls to Action through preparation of the AFN's annual progress report.





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- Advanced advocacy related to the implementation of recommendations contained in the Special Interlocutor's final report, Sites of Truth, Sites of Conscience, including calls for legislative reform, First Nations data sovereignty, protection of burial sites, and sustainable funding.
- Continued engagement with Canada to promote accountability and concrete action related to missing children, unmarked graves, and broader Truth and Reconciliation commitments.

Key Resolutions:

- 34/2025, *Calling on Canada to Criminalize Indian Residential School Denialism*

The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The AFN Justice Sector will continue advancing First Nations jurisdiction, self-determination, and rights-based approaches across justice, public safety, and governance systems.

Key priorities include supporting implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy, advancing First Nations policing reform and recognition of First Nations jurisdiction, promoting implementation of the Calls for Justice and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and monitoring progress on implementation of UNDRIPA.

Through ongoing engagement with Chiefs, regional organizations, and partners, the AFN will continue advocating for practical, First Nations-led solutions that improve safety, well-being, and access to justice for First Nations communities.





Branch & Sector Reports



Social Branch

The Social Branch advocates to advance First Nations jurisdiction and the implementation of inherent and Treaty rights across Languages and Learning, Health, and Social Development. Through advocacy, policy and legislative reform, research, and partnerships, the Branch works to improve the well-being of First Nations individuals, families, and communities.

Social Development Sector

The Social Development sector advocates for the needs of First Nations children and families including child welfare reform and Jordan's Principle. This includes the purview of the Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation (the Settlement) and operation of an Information Desk. The sector also supports First Nations on early learning and childcare, the delivery of Income Assistance and Assisted Living programs, and in the areas of poverty, family violence, and urban First Nations people.

Accomplishments 2025-26:

Advancing the Needs of First Nations Children and Families

The AFN continued advancing long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program through ongoing engagement at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT). In August 2025, the CHRT ordered 2025 CHRT 80, directing the AFN, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society), and Canada to develop a plan(s) for the long-term reform of FNCFS. The AFN supported the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) and the Caring Society in submitting the *Loving Justice Plan: FNCFS (Outside Ontario)*.

Canada delayed the evaluation and five-year legislative review of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families (Bill C-92)*. The AFN continues to press for full First Nations participation and meaningful consultation. Related to this work, the AFN also submitted recommendations to the Senate on Bill S-212, *An Act respecting a national strategy for children and youth in Canada*, calling for inclusion of First Nations' rights frameworks under Bill C-92 and First Nations early learning and childcare frameworks.

The sector is urging Canada to revoke the Jordan's Principle Operational Bulletin, which contributed in increased denials, service gaps, and delays. The AFN remains committed to upholding the CHRT orders and ensuring full implementation of Jordan's Principle, including through two expert advisory tables. The sector also hosted the Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator Gathering – *Rooted in Support, Rising in Strength* – to strengthen collaboration, coordinated advocacy, and promote holistic wellness approaches.

Sustained coordination on the implementing the Settlement on Compensation remains essential to ensure claims processes are culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and responsive to Claimants' needs. This includes positive experiences for those accessing the AFN's Information Desk, which fielded a total of 5,012 correspondences in 2025-2026.





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Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 01/2025, *Supporting Jordan's Principle and Upholding the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal 2016 CHRT 2*
- Resolution 02/2025, *Jordan's Principle Operation*
- Resolution 03/2025, *Approving Terms of Reference for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle Tables*
- Resolution 50/2025, *Direct Funding to the Dene nation for All Fiscal Transfers Including Child Welfare Compensation and LTR*
- Resolution 51/2025, *Recognition and Respect of First Nations Inherent Right to Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services across Regional Boundaries*

First Nations-led Social Program Reform

The AFN advanced First Nations-led reform of the Income Assistance and Assisted Living programs through advocacy, technical engagement, and collaboration with the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD). The work focuses on strengthening social supports, promoting culturally grounded and distinctions-based approaches, and supporting First Nations self-determination and capacity to deliver culturally appropriate programs that meet their specific needs. The AFN also contributed to discussions on First Nations Indicators of Poverty and Wellness, priorities for a data-collection pilot, and the development of a First Nations-specific poverty-alleviation strategy.

In February 2026, the AFN hosted the Sixth National IA Forum, *Leveraging Regional Variations: Innovating Income Assistance for Future Generations*, to support dialogue on IA reform and poverty reduction. This forum encouraged discussion and knowledge sharing on the progress of IA reform, self-governance models, and regional variations.

The AFN also launched the IA Costing research project to discover the true cost of delivering the IA program on-reserve based on the AFN's policy reform recommendations.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 07/2022, *Reform of the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program*
- Resolution 54/2024, *Income Assistance Program Reform and Poverty Reduction for First Nations*
- Resolution 91/2024, *First Nations Indicators of Poverty and Wellness*





Branch & Sector Reports

Early Learning and Child Care Results and Evaluation

The AFN's National Expert Working Group on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) prioritized developing and securing approval-in-principle of the results framework and evaluation strategy. The First Nations ELCC Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy is a first step towards better First Nations-led data collection on ELCC. The results framework identifies the intended outcomes of ELCC programming and sets measurable indicators to track progress. The evaluation strategy outlines a long-term approach for assessing program effectiveness by analyzing continuous improvement.

Key Resolutions:

- Resolution 05/2021, *ELCC Budget 2021 and Funding Allocation*
- Resolution 31/2025, *First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy*

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

As the CHRT continues to progress towards meaningful reform to the FNCFS program and Jordan's Principle, the Social Development Sector will maintain its support of the NCCC and participation as a Party to the proceedings. ELCC will build on the foundation of the results and evaluation framework to focus on the implementable key indicators. The sector will continue to track progress on the 5-year review and evaluation of Bill C-92 and stay engaged in implementing the Settlement and Information Desk processes for the remaining classes. Lastly, identifying the true cost of the IA program and advancing work on a First Nations-specific poverty strategy remain core priorities.





Branch & Sector Reports



Health Sector

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Health Sector advocates for First Nations' Inherent, Treaty, and international rights to health and well-being. The sector promotes wholistic, culturally informed, strengths-based approaches to wellness and envisions First Nations controlling their own health systems, with adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding. Self-determined, culturally appropriate care is essential to improving health outcomes and advance health equity for First Nations families and communities.

Accomplishments 2025-2026

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

The AFN is collaborating with partners to develop a MAID toolkit to support future regional dialogues. This toolkit will provide background information, and discussion resources to help First Nations examine MAID in relation to First Nations rights, laws, values, cultural safety, disability, health equity, palliative care, and access to services.

- Key Resolution: 43/2025, *Support for First Nations-led Engagement on Medical Assistance in Dying*

Biobanking and Genomic Data Governance

The AFN is working with subject-matter experts to develop a foundational document on biobanking, genomics, and genomic data governance. This resource will support Nations in assessing biobanking initiatives through the lens of First Nations data sovereignty, OCAP®, consent, governance, and accountability.

- Key Resolution: 16/2025, *Opposition to the Canadian Precision Health Initiative*

Public Health

Tuberculosis (TB) rates in northern remote First Nations are about four times the national average. Eliminating TB requires sustained investments to address the social determinants of health.

The AFN is working with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to bring together frontline workers from northern communities to identify priorities for a national TB elimination strategy. The strategy will be refined and validated for presentation at the December 2026 Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) in Ottawa.

- Key Resolution: 77/2024, *Developing a First Nations Tuberculosis Elimination Strategy in Canada*





Branch & Sector Reports

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

The NIHB Program continues to reflect systemic barriers that limit equitable access to care and negatively affect health outcomes. The AFN is advocating for urgent reforms to ensure timely, equitable, and culturally safe access to essential health services.

In February 2026, the AFN hosted a National NIHB Dialogue Session on the unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθkw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples. Discussion centered on past advocacy, strengthening current initiatives, and advancing a shared vision for First Nations-led service delivery, modernized policies, and expanded coverage for traditional wellness approaches.

Through the Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC) and NIHB Navigator discussions, the AFN continues to advance distinctions-based engagement, strengthen collaboration with federal and regional partners, and identify priorities and solutions to improve service navigation and access to care.

- Key Resolution: 14/2025, *Reforming the NIHB Program to Ensure Equitable, Accessible and Culturally Safe Healthcare*

Health Human Resources

AFN released the report, *Coming Out of Hibernation: A First Nations Health Human Resource Strategy*, to support advocacy aimed at strengthening the First Nations health workforce. It calls for stable long-term funding, stronger partnerships with health organizations and educational institutions, and policy reforms to improve recruitment and retention.

Collaboration with Canada and partner organizations continues, and national health human resource initiatives consistently reveal major gaps in First Nations-specific workforce data and planning.

Future work will focus on identifying workforce shortages, training gaps, and systemic barriers within First Nations health systems that drive the ongoing health human resource crisis.

- Key Resolution: 77-2025 *Support for First Nations Healthcare Workers*





Branch & Sector Reports

Mental Wellness

First Nations continue to face crisis-level rates of substance use, drug poisonings, and overdose deaths, driven by the ongoing impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma, and chronic underfunding of culturally grounded mental wellness services.

The AFN is advocating for long-term, sustainable, and self-determined funding as several key wellness and substance use program funding streams are set to expire within the next two years, despite the continuing crisis.

The *First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework* and *Honouring Our Strengths Framework* outline community-driven approaches to mental health and substance use across the life span and healing journey. Both are being renewed to reflect the evolving needs and realities of First Nations.

Key Resolutions:

- 04/2025, *Immediate Federal Intervention to Address the Fentanyl, Opioid, and Substance Abuse Crisis in First Nations Communities*
- 78/2025, *Call for Advocacy on Cuts to First Nations Programs*

The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

The AFN is advancing distinctions-based approaches that move beyond incremental program changes towards meaningful structural reform. Priorities include transferring health services to First Nations control, transforming federally delivered programs, and securing statutory, predictable, distinctions-based funding for First Nations-led health systems and governance structures that deliver services closer to home.

Advocacy will also focus on investments in mental wellness, NIHB, health human resources, anti-Indigenous racism initiatives, traditional health practices, and end-of-life care.





Branch & Sector Reports



Languages and Learning Sector

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Languages and Learning Sector advocates for First Nations control of First Nations education, the Inherent and Treaty right to education, and equitable funding that meets the needs and unique circumstances of First Nations and their learners.

The Sector also advocates for long-term, sustainable, consistent, and appropriate approaches to First Nations language revitalization through the Indigenous Languages Act (ILA).

The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) guide this work through mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly.

Accomplishments 2025-2026:

General

- Advanced key mandates across elementary and secondary education (K-12), post-secondary education (PSE), education infrastructure, language revitalization, and implementing the First Nations National Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL).
- Hosted 12+ meetings with the CCOE, CCOL, National Indian Education Council (NIEC), and Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL), to advance education and language revitalization priorities set by First Nations-in-Assembly.
- Held the 2026 Education Forum, *"Voices for Tomorrow: Lifting our Nations through Lifelong Learning"*, bringing together approximately 800 First Nations leaders, education experts, and language experts to celebrate the IDIL and share best practices.

Languages

- Supported implementation and strengthening of the ILA, including work with the Joint Implementation Steering Committee, the CCOL and the TCOL on the Independent Review of the ILA and broader implementation issues related to funding models and program design.
- Advanced national and international language priorities through IDIL initiatives, including UNESCO Global Task Force meetings, and ongoing advocacy, communications, and research on First Nations language revitalization and funding reform.





Branch & Sector Reports

Elementary and Secondary Education (K-12)

- Advocated for predictable, adequate, and needs-based K-12 education funding through regional engagement, advocacy by the National Chief on funding shortfalls, and support to AFN Regions to understand impacts of current funding gaps and stalled Regional Education Agreements.
- Developed a joint work plan with Economic and Social Development Canada to identify needs in First Nations school food programs.

Post Secondary Education

- Continued research and communications supporting budget advocacy for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and Post-Secondary Partnerships Program.
- Produced a position paper on the role of First Nations Post-Secondary Education (PSE) in meeting Canada's infrastructure and workforce needs, while advocating for stable, equitable, and First Nations-led funding models.
- Advanced research through the *Assessing Structural Funding Availability for First Nations Institutes* report, highlighting systemic funding gaps between First Nations Institutes and mainstream post-secondary institutions.

Education Infrastructure

- Worked with the CCOE and NIEC to advance education infrastructure policy priorities, including the School Priority Ranking Framework, School Space Accommodation Standards, and advocate for comprehensive capital reform.
- Commissioned the *2025 First Nations Education Infrastructure Capital and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Needs Assessment* to identify current and future education infrastructure capital and O&M needs on-reserve across Canada.
- Commissioned the *2025 First Nations Education Transportation Assessment* to update and improve costing information on First Nations education transportation needs.





Branch & Sector Reports

Adult Education

- Used findings from the *Adult Education Program and Infrastructure Costing Analysis* to advocate for First Nations-led funding models, while continuing to engage with First Nations leadership on the renewal and expansion of adult education funding beyond 2026/27.
- Began drafting a policy proposal with NIEC to renew and expand adult education funding.

Artificial Intelligence

- Began developing a First Nations Artificial Intelligence strategy focused on co-developing protections and regulations related to First Nations data in AI systems.
- Hosted an expert roundtable discussion and introductory webinar to support this work on Artificial Intelligence.

Key Resolutions

- AFN Resolution 46/2022, *Education Infrastructure Capital Reform*;
- AFN Resolution 10/2023, *Support for the First Nations National Action Plan for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Language (2022-32)*;
- AFN Resolution 56/2023, *Unilateral Education Programming Decisions by Indigenous Services Canada*;
- AFN Resolution 19/2024, *First Nations Languages Regional Allocation Formula*;
- AFN Resolution 52/2024, *National School Food Program*;
- AFN Resolution 100/2024, *Support for Increased First Nations Languages Funding*;
- AFN Resolution 25/2025, *Advancing Federal Recognition and Investment in First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions*;
- AFN Resolution 26/2025, *Support for the Renewal and Expansion of First Nations Adult Education Funding*;
- AFN Resolution 44/2025, *Restoring and Enhancing First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education Funding*;
- AFN Resolution 45/2025, *A First Nations Approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI)*.





Branch & Sector Reports

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

In the 2026/27, the AFN will prioritize:

- Driving budget advocacy for need-based language revitalization funding, renewed and expanded Section 8 & 9 agreements, and stronger enforcement of the ILA through the Independent Review.
- Updating *First Nations Control of First Nations Education*.
- Policy advocacy and communications on recent AFN research highlighting gaps in Adult Education, PSE, Capital and O&M, and transportation.
- Hosting the *AFN First Nations School Food Summit: Growing Food Sovereignty* and developing a report on First Nations School Food priorities.
- Advancing development of a First Nations Artificial Intelligence strategy.





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01/2025, *Supporting Jordan's Principle and Upholding the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal CHRT 2*

The AFN highlighted the backlog of Jordan's Principle requests in its appearance at the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Finance on February 12, 2026, pointing to the bureaucratic barriers that children and families face in Jordan's Principle. The AFN has also continued to work with the Jordan's Principle Operations Committee and Jordan's Principle Action Table to identify and advance advocacy to hold Canada accountable to the Tribunal's orders on Jordan's Principle.

02/2025, *Jordan's Principle Operations*

The AFN has continued discussions with First Nations and various committees on the Jordan's Principle Storyline, which outlines operational concerns and policy recommendations under Jordan's Principle. The AFN is working with the Jordan's Principle Action Table to update the Storyline to reflect the current operational reality. National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak has also made several statements to urge additional investments in Jordan's Principle to offer ongoing certainty to First Nations families. As a party to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the AFN continues to advocate for Canada to return to Jordan's Principle discussions with the Parties and for compliance with the Tribunal's orders on Jordan's Principle.

03/2025, *Approving Terms of Reference for First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Tables*

The AFN supported rights holders' approval of the Terms of Reference for the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) and its negotiating team. The AFN Secretariat has supported the NCCC by providing funds in a manner that is consistent with AFN's finance policy, fiscal safeguards, reporting and accountability measures, as well as providing communication and technical support as requested.

04/2025, *Immediate Federal Intervention to Address the Fentanyl, Opioid, and Substance Abuse Crisis in First Nations Communities*

A formal submission was provided to ISC, calling for the renewal of sunseting Mental Wellness and Substance Treatment programs and advocating for long-term, equitable, and sustainable funding. National and international attention on the crisis continued to grow, with dedicated plenary discussions at Chiefs Assemblies and advocacy by the National Chief at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The AFN continues to engage on the renewal of key policy frameworks, including the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework and Honour our Strengths Framework, while continuing to advocate for First Nations-led, culturally grounded mental health and substance use services supported through sustainable funding mechanisms.

05/2025, *Support for Recognition of the Inherent Right of First Nations and Tribal Citizens to Freely Cross the Canada-United States Border*

AFN has publicly advocated against federal measures that undermine border mobility rights, raised concerns regarding documentation requirements that conflict with First Nations self-determination, and continued engagement with federal partners on long-term legislative and policy solutions that recognize First Nations jurisdiction and mobility rights. AFN has continued advocating for meaningful First Nations involvement in the development of border mobility frameworks, including calls for dedicated resources to support First Nations participation in the co-development of permanent solutions and implementation mechanisms related to Canada-U.S. border crossing rights.



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06/2025, *Treaty and Inherent Rights to Trade*

The AFN advocates for the inclusion of First Nations in all discussions and negotiations related to tariffs and trade policies and the recognition of First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights to conduct trade and commerce through engagement on Global Affairs Canada's Indigenous Working Group on Trade (I-Trade).

07/2025, *Advancing First Nations Trade and Economies Through a First Nations Trade Strategy*

The AFN submitted a technical submission to the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (AEFA) regarding their study on Bill C-13, An Act to implement the Protocol on the Accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), outlining First Nations' concerns with Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions and importance of engagement in the implementation of the trade agreement. A letter was also sent to the International Trade Minister flagging these concerns. The AFN continued to build on Indigenous-to-Indigenous relations through attending the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement (IPETCA) Partnership Council meeting on the margins of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 2025.

08/2025, *Advancing Nation-to-Nation Trade*

The AFN advocates for the recognition of First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights to conduct trade and commerce between First Nations through engagement on Global Affairs Canada's Indigenous Working Group on Trade. The AFN is also continuing to meet with NCAI to implement the AFN-NCAI Declaration renewal, which includes trade.

09/2025, *Transition of the First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nations Control*

The AFN has advanced this resolution by meeting with the First Nations Market Housing Fund leadership on at least two occasions, offering support for their effort to see the control of the Fund transferred to First Nations. The AFN has also met multiple times with representatives of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada First Nations Market Housing Fund, urging them to transfer the First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nations control.

10/2025, *Ensure Adequate and Equitable Levels of Social Housing Funding*

The AFN Housing and Infrastructure Sector and the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure continue to monitor the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program (Section 95) through meetings at the staff and leadership levels. The AFN Secretariat reported on this work at the December 2025 Special Chiefs Assembly and continues to call on the Government of Canada to provide integrity funding to the Section 95 program to increase the program's impact and avoid any reductions in regional funding going forward.

11/2025, *First Nations Solid Waste Management*

The AFN is working to fulfil the mandate of this resolution through ongoing involvement with the Joint Table on First Nation Waste Management and First Nation Waste Management Initiative – National Advisory Committee. This work supports the recognition of waste management as an essential service and the development of the final report, "Waste Management in Crisis." The report proposes a phased transition to stand-alone federal legislation and sustained core funding to replace the Indian Reserve Waste Disposal



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Regulations (C.R.C., c.960), issued under the Indian Act. Following a final review by participating First Nation organizations, the report will be submitted to federal leadership to establish a modern regime rooted in First Nations' inherent jurisdiction.

The AFN has advanced this resolution through its work on closing the infrastructure gap. The 2023 Closing the Infrastructure Gap Report estimated it would cost more than \$490 million to close the gap for solid waste infrastructure. In a recent inflationary update to the report, this number has grown to \$774.6 million, not accounting for government spending in this area.

12/2025, Improving NIHB Access to Gender-Affirming Products, Gear and Supplies

The AFN initiated engagement with First Nations partners and 2SLGBTQQIA+ advocates to identify barriers within the NIHB program related to access to gender-affirming products, gear, and supplies. As part of this work, the AFN coordinated a presentation and discussion led by the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council during the National NIHB Dialogue Session to support awareness, education, and policy discussions on gaps in coverage and culturally safe access to care. The AFN continues to engage with ISC to advocate for expanded and equitable access pathways informed by First Nations-led priorities and experiences.

13/2025, National Review of Traditional Healer Program and NIHB Transportation Policy

The AFN continues to gather information from First Nations, Knowledge Keepers, and partners regarding experiences accessing traditional healing supports and medical transportation benefits through the NIHB program. Ongoing discussions continue to identify concerns related to inconsistent policy implementation, medical transportation, and barriers to accessing culturally appropriate care. The AFN continues to advocate for reforms that recognize and support First Nations healing practices and equitable access to services.

14/2025, Reforming the NIHB Program to Ensure Equitable, Accessible and Culturally Safe Healthcare

The AFN continues to engage with ISC and First Nations partners to identify systemic barriers within the NIHB program and advance reforms that improve equity, accessibility, and cultural safety. Through the NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC), comprised of ISC and First Nations Caucus representatives, work continues reviewing NIHB policies, procedures and program delivery approaches, with a focus on addressing longstanding concerns related to coverage, access, and transparency. The AFN continues to advocate for First Nations-led priorities and for meaningful program modernizations that reflects First Nations rights and priorities.

15/2025, Jurisdiction over First Nations Inherent Right to Traditional Birthing Practices

The AFN continues advocacy efforts to advance the recognition and funding of First Nation midwifery and traditional birth supports. Investments in midwifery were identified as a priority within the AFN Pre-Budget Submission. The AFN continues to work in partnership with the National Council of Indigenous Midwives to promote culturally grounded birthing practices, improve maternal and infant health outcomes, and reduce reliance on the ineffective and colonial practice of forced birth evacuations.

16/2025, Opposition to the Canadian Precision Health Initiative

The AFN continues to work in partnership with the First Nations Information and Governance Centre to advance an assessment of First Nation-controlled genomic data libraries and governance frameworks, consistent with First Nations data sovereignty principles and OCAP®. Work is underway to complete an



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environmental scan, key informant interviews, and analysis of First Nations-led genomic data governance models. This initiative will support the development of a foundational resource for First Nations anticipated in Fall 2026. In addition, a written request to pause the collection and use of First Nations genomic data within the Canadian Precision Health Initiative remains under consideration for formal submission to the Government of Canada.

17/2025, Support for a First Nations-Led Organ and Transplant Program

The AFN continued preliminary work to advance a First Nations-led approach to organ donation and transplantation. Initial engagements highlighted diverse perspectives, experiences, and geographical realities that influence organ donation and transplantation among First Nations. Recognizing that organ donation and transplantation systems are administered provincially and territorially within a national framework, the AFN is working with Canadian Blood Services, the largest national stewards of organ donation and transplantation in Canada, to identify funding opportunities, strengthen partnerships, develop communication approaches, and support for future program considerations. This work represents a long-term initiative requiring sustained engagement and collaboration.

18/2025, Supporting First Nations Right to Self-Determination beyond Co-development to Advance Distinct First Nations Accessibility Legislation

The AFN continues to work with Employment and Social Development Canada to advance First Nations accessibility, disability inclusion, and resources essential to advancing the rights of First Nation persons with disabilities. Advocacy efforts focused on promoting a whole-of-government approach to address systemic inequities across employment, education, health, housing, and others. The AFN continues to advance recommendations contained within its Shadow Report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, urging Canada to remove barriers and improve equitable access to services and supports for First Nations persons with disabilities.

19/2025, Support for Sustained Funding for Men and Boys Healing Programs to Prevent MMIWG2S and Uphold the 231 Calls for Justice

The AFN participated in the Minister of Health's Men and Boys' Health Strategy Roundtable to advocate for sustained funding and support for alignment with First Nations-led frameworks and governance. The AFN will continue to advocate for new, dedicated, and sustainable funding and resources to support efforts addressing Missing and Murdered First Nations Men and Boys (MMFNMB), recognizing that targeted investments are needed to better understand and respond to the unique experiences, risk factors, and systemic issues impacting First Nations men and boys.

20/2025, Youth Reintegration Strategy Review

A letter from the National Chief to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General Canada has been prepared, calling for a comprehensive review of regional youth reintegration and justice strategies, with a focus on the overrepresentation of First Nations youth in custody.

21/2025, National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering 2025

The AFN has prepared a letter from the National Chief to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, with input from the AFN Women's Council, calling on Canada to fund and support an inaugural



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National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering. Once planned, the AFN is prepared to support and promote this gathering through its communication channels and advocacy efforts.

22/2025, Implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada Sparrow Decision

On November 18, 2025, the AFN presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans during the 5-year review of the Fisheries Act. The AFN submitted a technical brief calling for full implementation of the UN Declaration and the Sparrow Decision, and for both to be reflected in the Fisheries Act and all Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) policies and programs. The AFN has raised Resolution 22/2024 at the Joint Planning Table with DFO and advocated for AFN participation in the federal review of the Food, Social and Ceremonial fishing licence policy. On April 13, 2026, the AFN wrote a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Secretary of State (Nature), requesting a meeting in May 2026 to discuss fisheries-related issues, including section 35 rights and implementation of all relevant Supreme Court of Canada decisions.

23/2025, Response to Canada's 2025-26 Distribution of Specific Claims Research Funding and Erosion of First Nations Right to Justice

The National Chief sent a letter to the Prime Minister calling for evidence-based investments in the specific claims research funding as a matter of national importance. In response, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada allocated an additional \$3 million to research funding, which resulted in \$15 million available in the 2025-2026 fiscal.

24/2025, Support for First Nations Advocacy Related to Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project

The AFN continues to advocate for First Nations' direct and meaningful involvement in all consultation processes. This includes regular meetings with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to advance joint development of regulations and policy, and to advocate for increased First Nations leadership and jurisdiction in impact assessment. In March, 2026 National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak wrote to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada to express concern with the current approach to establishing co-operation agreements between Canada and the provinces under the Impact Assessment Act. In her letter and the accompanying written submission, she called on the Government of Canada to include First Nations jurisdictions as equal partners in the assessment of major projects, and to advance the development of Indigenous Co-Administration agreement regulations that would allow First Nations greater oversight in impact assessment processes. This was followed by a meeting between National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak and the Minister on April 13, 2026, where the National Chief called for impact assessment processes to advance First Nations jurisdiction.

25/2025, Investing in First Nations Freshwater Stewardship

Letters were sent to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Nature (ECCN) and the Minister of Finance and National Revenue advocating for dedicated, sustainable funding to support First Nations-led water stewardship and participation in the modernization of the Canada Water Act and National Water Security Strategy. The National Chief reiterated these priorities in a meeting with the ECCN Minister and emphasized the need to protect source water. The AFN's submission to the House Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) on its 5-Year Review of the Fisheries Act included recommendations to strengthen the use of existing protection tools, such as Ecologically Significant Areas, to support water stewardship initiatives by



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First Nations. The AFN initiated work on a legal analysis of the Canada Water Act and discussions with Chiefs and technical committees regarding mechanisms under the Canada Water Agency to support First Nations in water governance.

26/2025, Support for the Renewal and Expansion of First Nations Adult Education Funding

The AFN finalized its report, Adult Education Program and Infrastructure Costing Analysis. Alongside the Languages and Learning Sector, the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) is currently drafting a policy proposal to support the renewal and expansion of Adult Education Funding. This proposal is in the final stages of drafting in anticipation of Budget 2026. The AFN continues to advocate for the renewal of the current adult education investment through interventions at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) and ongoing discussions with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

27/2025, Support for a Revised First Nations Control of First Nations Education Policy

The Languages and Learning Sector identified several potential amendments to the, First Nations Control of First Nations Education (2010), policy document. These potential amendments include the addition of key policy developments in First Nations education since 2010, stronger references to chronic underfunding and the broader role of education in society, updated statistics, minor organizational changes, and improved graphics. The Sector will continue to work with the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) in 2026 to develop an updated version for First Nations-In-Assembly.

28/2025, Advancing Federal Recognition and Investment in First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions

The Languages and Learning Sector has undergone two research projects that are nearing completion surrounding post-secondary institutional costing and commitments towards First Nations students' success. This research is being used to inform budget submissions, policy proposals, and advocacy efforts to support the sustainable operations of First Nations post-secondary institutions. In preparation for the 2026 First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting, the Sector plans to advance First Nations post-secondary education as a key priority aligned with Canada's infrastructure and economic growth agenda.

29/2025, Transformative Change of the Access to Information Regime

As part of the AFN's work to develop a First Nations approach towards Artificial Intelligence, the AFN will be seeking collaboration between the Government of Canada and First Nations to review, reform, and develop legislation surrounding the protection of First Nations data sovereignty.

30/2025, Implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy

The AFN has initiated outreach to the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) to establish a bilateral meeting and begin advancing this mandate in partnership with FNIGC and its regional partners. The AFN is also drafting correspondence to the relevant federal department calling on Canada to adhere to Action Plan Measure 30 of the UNDA Action Plan and provide sustainable funding for the implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

31/2025, First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy

Throughout 2025, the AFN and the National Expert Working Group on First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) continued outreach to garner feedback on the draft results framework and evaluation strategy. In



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May 2026, the AFN published the draft results framework and evaluation strategy, and feedback continues to be accepted. The AFN also released a Request for Proposals (RFP) in May 2026 to solicit bids to conduct the piloting and feasibility testing of the results framework and evaluation strategy. The final results framework and evaluation strategy will be subject to review and approval from First Nations-in-Assembly by July 2027. The AFN continues to work with Canada on funding for First Nations to implement the results framework and evaluation strategy.

32/2025, Five Percent Quota of Indigenous Music on Public and Private Radio

A letter was sent to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture calling for the appointment of an Indigenous Commissioner to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). The letter also advocates for greater representation of Indigenous music and languages on Canadian airwaves, particularly by imposing a five percent quota for Indigenous artists across public and private radio.

33/2025, Affirming the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act and Supporting Coastal First Nations' Rejection of any Proposed Pipeline

The AFN is advocating for First Nations to be meaningfully consulted in all agreements that would impact assessment and consultation processes for major projects to be developed on their lands and territories. This includes the Canada-Alberta Memorandum of Understanding and cooperation agreements that have been negotiated between Canada and certain provinces. In particular, the Canada-Alberta co-operation agreement references the Canada-Alberta Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), affirming joint political support for shared energy interests. First Nations have raised serious concerns that the MoU sidesteps the Crown's duty to consult by committing to the development of large-scale carbon capture initiatives and linear projects (pipelines) without adequately consulting impacted First Nations. The AFN provided a technical submission in response to Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's consultation paper titled "One Project, one Review": Co-operation Agreements for the Assessment of Major Projects calling for Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to revise and relaunch its approach to consulting First Nations in relation to co-operation agreements for the assessment of major projects to ensure that First Nations have sufficient time, resources and information to contribute meaningfully to this process, and to recognize First Nations jurisdictions as equal partners in the assessment of major projects in Canada.

34/2025, Calling on Canada to Criminalize Indian Residential School Denialism

The AFN developed a written submission on Bill C-9 to advocate for amendments that would explicitly criminalize Indian Residential School (IRS) denialism, expand protections to include First Nations sacred spaces, and address gaps that fail to reflect First Nations' realities and experiences. On May 28, 2026, BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee appeared at the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights calling for Bill C-9 to include provisions to criminalize IRS denialism. The intervention also focused on protecting First Nations' rights and advocacy efforts by recommending safeguards for land defenders, including exemptions for lawful protest activities and maintaining Attorney General consent requirements to prevent overreach and politically motivated prosecutions.

35/2025, National-Provincial All-Inclusive First Nations Survivors' Day

A letter from the National Chief to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has been prepared, calling for the Government of Canada to recognize June 30th as a National First Nations Survivors Day, and to introduce legislation to make it a federal statutory holiday.



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36/2025, Support for a National Day for Indigenous Child Removal Survivors by the Government of Canada

A letter from the National Chief to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has been prepared, calling for the Government of Canada to recognize June 30th as a National First Nations Survivors Day, and to introduce legislation to make it a federal statutory holiday. As directed by Resolution 36/2025, the AFN is calling on Canada to make this day inclusive of all Indigenous child removal survivors, including Sixties Scoop survivors.

37/2025, Development of a National First Nations-led HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Prevention Strategy

The AFN secured funding from ISC to support the development of a National First Nations-led HIV Prevention Strategy. This work responds to rising rates of HIV and other blood-borne infections among First Nations populations and seeks to advance culturally relevant prevention, education, and support approaches. Drafting of the strategy is underway, with a national gathering planned for Summer 2026 to validate and refine priorities based on First Nations' experiences and realities. The AFN anticipates launching the strategy on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2026.

38/2025, Advancing the Rights and Well-being of First Nations Persons with Disabilities

The AFN is organizing virtual dialogue sessions on First Nation accessibility, for Fall 2026, to provide opportunities for First Nations to identify priorities, barriers, and recommendations related to accessibility and inclusion. These discussions will support ongoing advocacy efforts to inform future policy, program, funding, and legislative initiatives.

39/2025, Reform of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program to Eliminate Exclusion Policies and Address Service Gaps

The AFN continues to advance discussions with ISC and First Nation partners to address exclusion policies and service gaps in the NIHB program. These engagements have consistently raised concerns about claim denials, restrictive eligibility criteria, and inequitable access to medically necessary supports and services for First Nations. In response, the AFN has initiated scoping for a legal review and analysis to assess federal obligations regarding equitable access to health benefits and services for First Nations, which will inform future advocacy and negotiations on NIHB reform.

40/2025, Reinstatement of Ozempic as an Open Benefit under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB)

The AFN continues to raise concerns to ISC regarding the impacts of NIHB coverage changes for Ozempic and the resulting barriers faced by First Nations in accessing timely and appropriate care. In ongoing discussions, the AFN has emphasized the health risks of restricting access to Ozempic, including disruptions to continuity of care and the downstream costs of avoidable complications, while underscoring the importance of distinctions-based approaches to chronic disease prevention and management. The AFN's advocacy is grounded in the principle that NIHB must support prevention-focused, culturally safe, and medically appropriate access to prescription medications for First Nations, including reinstating Ozempic as an open benefit where clinically indicated.



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41/2025, Affirm Non-Insured Health Benefits Dental Program Independence from the Canadian Dental Care Plan

The AFN continues to monitor the implementation of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) and to engage with ISC on its potential impacts on NIHB Dental policy. Ongoing discussions with ISC focus on policy measures to ensure the NIHB Dental Program remains independent, responsive to First Nations' needs, and protected from unintended negative impacts arising from the implementation of the CDCP.

42/2025, The Health of All Our Relations—First Nations Animals and Food Systems Health

The AFN has started building a relationship with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to continue its work and explore advocacy opportunities on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and other animal and plant health issues that impact First Nations. The AFN also hosted a workshop on CWD in February 2026 in Saskatoon, SK, to share and exchange information and to develop education and communication tools. Participants included AFN CWD working group members and Regional Nature Coordinators, along with First Nations' Knowledge Keepers, youth, and harvesters from each region. The AFN continues to work with the AFN CWD working group on the development of a CWD Position Paper, which will serve as a reference for information sharing and to guide future policy and funding advocacy.

43/2025, Support for First Nations-led Engagement on Medical Assistance in Dying

The AFN is supporting the development of a First Nations-led dialogue process on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). Planned resources include a background document, governance conditions framework, and facilitator guide to support regional and national dialogue. This work will support First Nations leadership, Knowledge Keepers, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and health professionals in identifying the safeguards, supports, and governance conditions necessary before MAID policies can be safely and appropriately implemented within First Nations.

44/2025, Restoring and Enhancing First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education Funding

In 2025, the National Chief and the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) corresponded with Prime Minister Carney and Minister Gull-Masty to express concern regarding the Fall 2025 cuts to funding protection and ancillary student support, and the ongoing failure to finalize and fund Regional Education Agreements. The AFN continues to advocate for education funding that meets First Nations self-determined needs. The National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and AFN Languages and Learning Sector have developed key education priorities to bring forward with the CCOE and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in support of improved joint decision-making and sufficient, predictable, and sustainable First Nations education funding.

45/2025, Support for a First Nations Approach to Artificial Intelligence

The AFN engaged with the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) and various sectors within the Secretariat to develop a workplan for a First Nations Approach to Artificial Intelligence. In May 2026, the AFN held a gathering of experts in the field of Artificial Intelligence to help inform the Secretariat on the current state of Artificial Intelligence. The Languages and Learning Sector is also hosted a webinar in June 2026 for the CCOL on the basics of Artificial Intelligence. The development of a First Nations Approach to Artificial Intelligence remains on track for completion in December 2026.



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46/2025, Re-establishing Inter-Tribal Harvesting Protocols

Elements of the resolution have been advanced through the AFN's work on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). In February 2026, the AFN hosted a CWD workshop in Saskatoon, SK, providing information on the impacts of the disease on First Nations and on the importance of First Nations laws, protocols, rights, and stewardship in the prevention of the disease. Communication material has been created to reflect the information and comments heard throughout the workshop. The AFN CWD working group is currently drafting a Position Paper highlighting the importance of historic Treaties, First Nations laws and protocols in relation to hunting and harvesting in the context of CWD. The AFN has continued to advance the work of its First Nations Nature Table, a senior bilateral technical table that contributes to the development and provision of strategic advice and recommendations to Environment and Climate Change Canada and AFN Leadership on shared nature priorities. This includes positioning First Nations as rightful leaders in the implementation of Canada's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan and other national and international measures, in a manner that addresses, promotes, and respects First Nations' rights, protocols, knowledge systems, and self-determined nature priorities.

47/2025, Federal Support for First Nations-led Off-Reserve Data Collection through the First Nations Information Governance Centre and its Regional Partners

The AFN is advancing the call to remove First Nations data collection from the Indigenous Peoples Survey (IPS) in favour of a First Nations-led approach through FNIGC and its regional partners. The AFN will continue to advocate for sufficient federal funding and resources to support the full implementation of First Nations-led off-reserve data collection and governance.

48/2025, Honouring the Legacy of Elijah Harper through a Monument and AFN advocacy

In January 2026, the National Chief attended the 30th Anniversary Commemoration of Elijah Harper's 1995 Sacred Assembly in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The event brought together leaders, Elders, faith representatives, and participants from across Canada to honour Elijah Harper's legacy and reflect on his vision for reconciliation, healing, and spiritual leadership. The AFN will continue to advocate for a permanent public monument in Winnipeg honouring Elijah Harper by working with the Manitoba Regional Chief, the Harper family, and project proponents to advance the initiative, while engaging governments and philanthropic partners to secure funding for its development and long-term stewardship.

49/2025, Protecting the Sacred Calving Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd from Oil and Gas Development

The AFN has prepared a letter for submission to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior calling for the repeal of language in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the Act) requiring oil and gas exploration within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The letter outlines the critical importance of First Nations' relationship with caribou and flags problematic sections within the Act which call for the sale of exploration leases within the ANWR, risking degradation of the critical calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has announced a new lease sale for the ANWR coastal plain scheduled for June 5, 2026. The AFN will similarly oppose this sale, citing the importance of the coastal plain for the Porcupine Caribou herd life cycle and minimal interest expressed from exploration proponents in historical sales in the plains.



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50/2025, Direct Funding to the Dene Nation for All Fiscal Transfers Including Child Welfare Compensation and Long Term Reform (LTR)

The AFN has prepared a letter from the National Chief addressed to the Ministers of Indigenous Services and Crown-Indigenous Relations, to urge the Ministers to consult with Dene Nation to honour the inherent rights of Dene communities to receive funding directly. The letter urges consultations and negotiations among the Dene Nation, Dene Communities, and the federal and territorial government bodies, to develop a fulsome funding agreement, including measures related to child and family services compensation and long-term reform.

51/2025, Recognition and Respect of First Nations Inherent Right to Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services across Regional Boundaries

The Resolution was shared and discussed with Indigenous Services Canada at a joint technical working group table on the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families. The AFN will continue to advocate for implementation of solutions to address the issues highlighted in the Resolution as part of our ongoing work in supporting the Act's continued implementation. Efforts are also being undertaken to ensure these issues captured in the Resolution are put forward for consideration on the agenda of the next First Ministers Meeting.

52/2025, Opposition to "Treat and Release" Toxic Tailings and all Environmental Racism

The AFN continues to advocate for a national strategy to assess, prevent and address environmental racism, building on formal policy work such as AFN's Technical Submission on the Right to a Healthy Environment (2024), affirming that environmental justice must address historical harms and protect the intrinsic rights of all beings and ecosystems. In November 2025, the National Chief held a press conference with First Nation leaders from Treaty 8 to denounce plans to 'treat and release' toxic oil sands tailings waters into the Athabasca River and watershed. AFN's Environment Sector has also led dialogue sessions at the National Forum on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (February 2025) and the National Conservation Gathering (October 2026), to advance First Nations' inherent authority, leadership, and knowledge in protecting their territories, in relation to chemicals management. A recommendation report will be released in Fall 2026, based on AFN's First Nations Advocacy Initiative for a Chemical Management Plan. The AFN remains committed to supporting affected First Nations in asserting their inherent authority and to advocating for direct, equitable funding to those First Nations to address disproportionate harms to their water and land.

53/2025, Support for International Partnership with Indigenous Peoples on Joint Climate and Biodiversity Action

The AFN continues to advocate for First Nations internationally in line with the AFN National Climate Strategy, guided by the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE). This fall, the AFN will advocate for First Nations-led climate and conservation solutions at the upcoming meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The shared project between AFN and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Our Collective Futures, received formal approval from Global Affairs Canada in mid-January. Since then, the implementation team has been working with Indigenous partners in Nepal and Thailand to conduct a baseline assessment report in preparation for the implementation of the project's activities. Portfolio Holder, Regional Chief Andrea Paul, and Knowledge Keeper, Dr. Gwen Point, have agreed to participate on the Indigenous



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Knowledge Steering Committee. AFN will host a dialogue session with partners at the 4th National Climate Gathering in Hamilton, ON, from Oct 6-8, 2026, to showcase the ongoing work aimed at increasing climate resilience through this partnership between Indigenous Peoples organizations in Canada, Thailand, and Nepal.

54/2025, Affirming First Nations Rights to Identify their Citizens - Bill S-2, An Act to Amend the Indian Act

The National Chief appeared as a witness before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs on Bill S-2, and a written submission was also prepared. The AFN's intervention focused on advancing First Nations jurisdiction over citizenship by advocating for legislative reforms that recognize inherent rights, support First Nations-led citizenship systems, enable transition away from Indian Act registration provisions, and ensure adequate funding and implementation supports for self-determined governance.

55/2025, Support for the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance Standard

As directed by Resolution 55/2025, the AFN is planning a dialogue session at the 2026 Annual General Assembly focusing on the development of the First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy, and analysis of the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance Standard. In October 2025, National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak appeared at the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Natural Resources as a witness for their study on the development of critical minerals in Canada, emphasizing the need to hear directly from First Nations as rights-holders. The AFN also prepared letter packages to inform First Nations to support them in undertaking parliamentary advocacy. In March 2026, the AFN provided a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence (NDDN) on the nexus between national defence, national security, and Canada's critical minerals sector, calling for full adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples in all critical minerals activities.

56/2025, First Nations-led Critical Minerals Strategy

The AFN submitted a funding proposal to Natural Resources Canada to support this initiative. The AFN also provided a technical submission to the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR) on their study on the Development of Critical Minerals in Canada, advocating for full recognition of First Nations inherent jurisdiction and governance over their lands, waters, and resources and no critical mineral projects to proceed without the FPIC of impacted First Nations, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and existing case law.

57/2025, Condemning Canada's Specific Claims Research Funding Cuts

As directed by the Resolution, the AFN developed and implemented an advocacy strategy to support First Nations direct advocacy to the Prime Minister and Minister of Crown – Indigenous Relations calling for at least \$35 million in annual funding. The AFN continues to coordinate with research directors and the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources to align and advance advocacy for a sustainable and evidence-based research funding program.

58/2025, Affirmation of Indigenous Jurisdiction and Recognition of the Quatsino First Nation Declaration

AFN has been directed to seek funding for a series of national First Nations-led roundtables on spiritually grounded governance systems. The AFN is establishing a working group to support the development, implementation, and legal application of Nation-specific title declarations across Canada.



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59/2025, *Strategic Direction on Land Restitution and Compensation*

The Government of Canada does not have a mandate to engage in specific claims reform. The AFN continues to engage with First Nations, technicians, and federal officials to identify opportunities for constructive discussions aligned with First-Nations-in-Assembly mandates. Most recently, the AFN remains engaged in the re-design of the Additions to Reserve Policy and has engaged First Nations on how ATR re-design can advance land restitution models.

60/2025, *Repatriation of First Nations Items and Sacred Artifacts*

The AFN, alongside other national Indigenous organizations, negotiated the return of 62 cultural artifacts including wampum belts and ceremonial gloves from the Vatican. National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak led a delegation of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and survivors to Vatican City to ensure the items returned home safely and with proper traditional protocols. The AFN will continue to push for legislation protecting Indigenous cultural property from being sold without consent, and provide support to individual First Nations in pursuing legal remedies and injunction. Under the directives of its mandates, the AFN is working with First Nations cultural experts to support national identification strategies and inventories of cultural items held in both public and private collections.

61/2025, *Clarifying Approaches to Métis Rights in First Nations' Territories*

AFN has advanced advocacy by raising concerns with federal measures on Bill C-21, the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty Act and the need for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of affected First Nations. On April 23, 2026, National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak issued a statement outlining these concerns, calling for the bill to be withdrawn and for the government to fulfil its duty to consult with affected First Nations. These concerns were also raised during the AFN's audience with His Majesty the King Charles III, highlighting the need to protect Treaty relationships and First Nations jurisdiction.

62/2025, *Ensuring Rights-based Negotiations and Economic Accommodations are Mandated and Directed by First Nations*

The AFN Economic Development sector will draft a letter to Canada advocating and affirming that rights-based negotiations with the federal or provincial governments, as well as participation in economic accommodation measures arising from the infringement of Section 35 rights, must be conducted only by, or under the express legal authority of, the rights-bearing First Nations whose rights are directly impacted. As well as look to First Nations to start discussions on what a national policy standard could look like.

63/2025, *Baeleigh's Law*

The AFN has completed a legal review of Bill C-75, and is developing a letter to be sent to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada advocating for new legislation to be introduced that would further amend the Criminal Code and other relevant acts in order to uphold Baeleigh's Law, ensuring that the right of First Nations children to justice, safety, and well-being is upheld through Canadian legal and judicial systems.

64/2025, *Supporting First Nations through the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council*

The AFN supported the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) to engage with both the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM) and the First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC) on Emergency Management during the AFN emergency management summit week in March 2026. AFN plans to



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continue supporting the NIFSC to engage with CCEM as part of the resolution to support engagements on design, scope, and operational capacity of First Nations firefighters' integration with all relevant partners in emergency management.

65/2025, Support for First Nations' Multilateral Negotiations and Implementation of Emergency Management

The AFN has advanced this resolution through supporting the development of a technical working group that held two meetings to support First Nations with development and implementation of their own multilateral negotiations with federal, provincial, and territorial governments. The meetings focused on identifying challenges, barriers, and opportunities with on-going regional, multilateral negotiations. The AFN intends to host future meetings to support First Nations with their respective multilateral negotiations and identify research opportunities to support First Nations with the goal of securing long-term distinctions-based funding.

66/2025, Affirming the Role of First Nations in Shaping Canadian Immigration Policy and Entry Decisions

The AFN has raised these priorities with Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials and is exploring options for the establishment of formal First Nations advisory and decision-making mechanisms related to immigration policy. The AFN is working to secure the necessary funding and resources to develop a First Nations-led framework for immigration policies.

67/2025, Advancing the Recognition, Implementation, and Enforcement of Pre-1975 Treaties

The AFN has advanced advocacy with the Crown on Treaty Rights, Treaty implementation, and the Crown's ongoing constitutional obligations, including through an Audience with His Majesty King Charles III. This included reinforcing First Nations Priorities related to pre-1975 Treaties and the need to address overlapping rights in a manner that upholds First Nations' rights. The AFN is currently engaging First Nations leadership on planning and identifying priorities for a First Nations-First Ministers Meeting (FNFM), targeted for Fall 2026.

68/2025, Advancing Indigenous Justice Transformation and Ending the Use of Isolation in Federal Institutions

The AFN advanced advocacy on corrections reform, including engagement on Bill S-205, to promote legislative and policy changes that address the continued use of isolation practices and better align federal systems with First Nations rights and international human rights standards, including UNDRIP. This work also included advocacy at the national and international levels to highlight systemic gaps in access to culturally appropriate healing, community-based reintegration, and Section 81/84 pathways, and to reinforce the need for First Nations-led alternatives to confinement. A letter was drafted to the Minister of Public Safety calling for a coordinated national action to end the use of isolation and advance First Nations-governed justice systems.

69/2025, Asserting our Inherent Right to Hunt in our Traditional Territories

The AFN continues to advocate for the recognition of First Nations' Inherent, Treaty, and constitutionally protected rights to govern and protect their own traditional territories. This includes advocacy to ensure First Nations are supported in exercising their inherent jurisdiction and are meaningfully involved in assessing any projects or developments that would impact their rights, including the right to hunt. The AFN also advocates for support and funding for co-management or recognition agreements that affirm First Nations governance over wildlife and land use within their traditional territories, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. This advocacy has helped to develop the Parks Canada Indigenous Stewardship Policy, which seeks to re-establish responsible harvesting in Parks Canada administered places, as a core tenet of conservation.



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70/2025, Protecting First Nations Access to Archival Metadata-Ensure Community-Led Processes with NCTR

AFN has advanced First Nations data sovereignty by demanding that Ottawa and provincial archives ensure community-led processes. AFN has advocated for policies ensuring First Nations control over how their oral histories, archival documents, and cultural metadata are accessed, stored, and shared. AFN champions the establishment of regional First Nations Information Governance Centers and supports local data champions to ensure communities themselves lead the digitization, cataloging, and repatriation of their heritage. The AFN will continue to actively push back against colonial patterns of data extraction.

71/2025, European Union Ban on Seal Products

On December 19, 2025, the AFN wrote to the Ministers of Fisheries, Foreign Affairs, and International Trade urging action to secure a European Union (EU) exemption of seal products in support of Indigenous sealing industries. At the AFN Economic Development and Infrastructure Summit in Montreal, QC, on March 2-3, 2026, a dedicated panel featuring Chief Jennifer Brake of Qalipu First Nation and Doug Chiasson, Executive Director of the Fur Institute of Canada, highlighted the sealing industry's potential to become a significant economic driver for coastal communities. On April 16, 2026, the AFN met with officials from Global Affairs Canada and DFO to raise awareness of Resolution 71/2025 ahead of the official Government of Canada delegation to the Seafood Expo Global in Barcelona, Spain, where the Minister of Global Affairs Canada was scheduled to meet with the EU delegation.

72/2025, Confronting Indigenous Identity Fraud and Safeguarding First Nations Rights

AFN has advanced advocacy and policy work to address Indigenous identity fraud by reinforcing that First Nations have the inherent right and jurisdiction to determine their own citizenship, membership, and belonging systems. AFN has raised concerns regarding the impacts of identity fraud on First Nations rights, governance, and access to programs and services, while ensuring discussions remain grounded in self-determination and rights recognition. AFN continues to support First Nations-led approaches and advocate for federal policies and processes that safeguard First Nations rights and align with the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

73/2025, Natural Resource Transfer Agreement Technical Table and Advocacy Committee

On February 10th 2026, AFN hosted an NRTA Summit on the margins of the Second National Natural Resources Forum in Calgary, Alberta. Over one hundred representatives from Western Treaty Nations came together to discuss political and economic strategy. AFN is continuing to explore opportunities to provide technical and political support to NRTA research and advocacy.

74/2025, Repatriation of First Nation Artifacts and Documents from the Hudson's Bay Company and Court Injunction Against Sale

In response to Hudson's Bay Company's (HBC) liquidation filing under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA), the AFN joined the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to demand that the court-appointed monitor halt the sale of any cultural and ceremonial artifacts. The AFN advocated for complete transparency, forcing HBC to compile and release a full catalogue of the items, preventing covert sales to private collectors under non-disclosure agreements. The AFN has pressured the federal government to establish a robust, well-funded



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national repatriation framework. This legislation aims to enforce clear processes for the return of First Nations property and protect cultural items from unauthorized corporate liquidation. AFN has utilized the momentum of resolution directives to push for the return of artifacts globally.

75/2025, Historical Treaty Signing Sites

The AFN continues to advocate for First Nations in asserting their Inherent and Treaty rights, including during National Chief's Audience with His Majesty King Charles III to reaffirm that Treaties form the basis of our relationship with the Crown. The AFN will continue to support First Nations in reclaiming, protecting and managing their own governance systems.

76/2025, Invitation To His Majesty King Charles III – 150th Anniversary of Treaty 6 Signing at Fort Carlton

The National Chief, along with several Regional Chiefs, had an audience with his majesty King Charles III at Buckingham Palace on June 2, 2026. During their audience with the King, the AFN Delegation highlighted that Treaties form the basis of the relationship between First Nations and the Crown and are foundational to the creation of Canada, and emphasized that any steps towards provincial separation in Alberta affect Treaty relationships and require consultation with affected First Nations.

77/2025, Support for First Nations Healthcare Workers

In response to ongoing health human resource challenges, the AFN continues participation in national committees and initiatives focused on strengthening the First Nations health workforce. The release of the AFN publication of *Coming out of Hibernation: A National First Nations Health Human Resource Strategy* provides a foundation for future advocacy and implementation efforts. The AFN also collaborated with partners to improve the understanding of current workforce realities and identify opportunities to strengthen recruitment, retention, and workforce planning across First Nations health systems.

78/2025, Call for Advocacy on Cuts to First Nations Programs

AFN has advanced this work through public advocacy, federal budget submissions, media engagement, and direct engagement with federal officials, consistently calling for renewed and sustained investments and warning that continued cuts undermine Treaty obligations, reconciliation commitments, and First Nations' capacity and self-determination, while advocating for long-term, predictable funding models rather than short-term or sunseting approaches.

79/2025, Renewing the AFN-NCAI Declaration of Kinship and Cooperation

In March 2026, the AFN supported National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak at the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's 2026 Reservation Economic Summit where the AFN and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) renewed the AFN-NCAI Declaration. The AFN continues to meet with NCAI to implement the AFN-NCAI Declaration renewal.



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80/2025, *Unilateral Health Supply Restrictions Resulting in Service Disruptions*

The AFN engaged with First Nations partners and ISC regarding reports of disruptions and restrictions affecting access to medically necessary health supplies. Discussions identified concerns related to unilateral policy changes, inconsistent communication, and impacts on continuity of care for First Nations. The AFN continues to advocate for transparent decision-making processes, meaningful engagement with First Nations prior to policy changes, and sustained access to essential health supplies and supports.

81/2025, *Advancing First Nations-Led Reporting, Standards, and Accountability in Health Systems*

The AFN continued to participate in national initiatives focused on addressing anti-Indigenous racism and advancing cultural safety standards within Canada's healthcare system. Through further involvement in the development of reporting and accountability standards, the AFN is supporting First Nations self-determination in establishing culturally relevant expectations for healthcare systems and health professionals entering the community. The upcoming First Nations First Ministers meeting will provide an important forum to advance discussions related to Treaty rights to health, cultural safety, and accountability across jurisdictions.

82/2025, *The Alberta Indigenous Games*

The AFN identified support for First Nations sports and recreation initiatives as a priority within its upcoming Pre-Budget Submission. Ongoing advocacy with key partners, including the Aboriginal Sport Circle and Future of Sports Canada, seeks to advance equitable access to sports and recreation opportunities for First Nations. These efforts support broader objectives related to health, wellness, youth engagement, and community development.



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Economic Development

House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR) Study on Critical Mineral Development

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR) conducted a study on critical mineral development.

On October 23, 2025, National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak made an intervention to RNNR and a technical submission was made in follow-up. The AFN submission included 18 recommendations supported by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly. The AFN submitted that both the RNNR Committee and responsible federal departments must engage First Nations rights-holders themselves, whose lands, waters, economies, rights, and interests will continue to be directly impacted by resource development in Canada. AFN's recommendations focus on 5 areas of consideration, including:

- Full adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Centering First Nations in critical minerals mining and other activities in economic reconciliation;
- Recognizing and implementing First Nations right to water in the context of critical minerals;
- Addressing mining legacy and ongoing contamination in full partnership with First Nations;
- Acknowledging and preventing gender-based violence associated with the mining industry.

The AFN will continue to monitor the progress of the study and other activities of the RNNR to ensure recommendations are reflected in the study report.

House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR) Study on Canadian Energy Exports

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR) conducted a study on Canadian energy exports.

On March 12, 2026, National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak made an intervention to RNNR and a technical submission was made in follow-up. The AFN submission included 15 recommendations supported by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly. The AFN submitted that both the RNNR and responsible federal departments must engage First Nations rights-holders themselves, whose lands, waters, economies, rights, and interests will continue to be directly impacted by energy development and exports in Canada. AFN's recommendations focus on 3 areas of consideration, including:

- Full adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, specifically article 32;
- Addressing disproportionate environmental and social costs in full partnership with First Nations rights- and title- holders; and
- Centering First Nations in energy export, and other activities in economic reconciliation

The AFN will continue to monitor the progress of the study and other activities of the RNNR to ensure recommendations are reflected in the study report.



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House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR) Study on the Forestry Industry

The RNNR conducted a study on the forestry industry.

On February 9, 2026, the AFN submitted a technical brief on First Nations in the Forestry Industry. The AFN submission included 11 recommendations that aligned with existing mandates passed through resolutions by the First Nations-in-Assembly. The recommendations were made under four (4) themes, including:

- Full adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), in all forestry activities;
- Addressing forestry legacy and ongoing contamination in full partnership with First Nations Rights- and Title- holders;
- First Nations participation in trade in relation to forestry; and
- First Nations in forestry and economic reconciliation

The AFN will continue to monitor the study to ensure the recommendations submitted are included in the study report.

Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (AEFA) Study on Bill C-13, An Act to implement the Protocol on the Accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

The Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (AEFA) conducted a study on Bill C-13, An Act to implement the Protocol on the Accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Bill C-13 seeks to ratify the UK's accession to the CPTPP, a trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. Once signed into law, the agreement will be applied 60 days later.

On April 17, 2026, the AFN made a technical submission to the AEFA, outlining 3 recommendations supported by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly. In its technical submission, the AFN urged the AEFA to address the issue of Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions found in CPTPP, highlighting the threat of ISDS on First Nations rights, environmental protections, and other important public interests against foreign influence. The AFN also call on the AEFA and the federal government to engage directly with First Nations in the implementation of the CPTPP to ensure that the benefits of Canada's trade diversification reach First Nations. In addition to raising concerns with the AEFA, National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak sent a letter to the Minister of International Trade, calling for action regarding the concerns and recommendations raised in the technical submission.

The AFN will continue to monitor progress of Bill C-13 and any other future trade agreements tabled by the federal government.



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House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence (NDDN) Study on Nexus Between National Defence, National Security and Canada's Critical Minerals Sector

The House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence (NDDN) conducted a study examining the nexus between national defence, national security, and Canada's critical minerals sector.

On March 30, 2026, the AFN made a technical submission, outlining a total of 13 recommendations supported by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly. The AFN submitted that Canada must work towards full adherence to the UN Declaration to address mining legacy and ongoing contamination in full partnership with First Nations rights- and title- holders and recognize that First Nations' infrastructure and economic priorities are strongly tied to national defence and national security objectives.

House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) Study on Issues Related to Federally Recognized Indigenous Communities That Do Not Have a Land Base, Reserve or Modern Treaty

The INAN Committee studied First Nations that do not have land bases or reserve status for their lands by examining how federal policy and legislation can recognize and expedite implementation processes.

In February 2026, the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige appeared on behalf of the AFN. In her remarks, Grand Chief Debassige testified that fewer than 30 First Nations in Canada lack reserve lands. The landless problem prevents these Nations from building sustainable communities and exercising their rights. Grand Chief Debassige called on Canada to release comprehensive data on landless Bands and for an accelerated land restitution process. In contrast, Grand Chief Debassige spoke to how the Crown can fast track legislation such as Bill C-5 and decision-making for projects that impact First Nations land, territories, and resources.

As of May 2026, the INAN report has not been completed. The AFN will continue to monitor study activity, analyze and respond to the report once released, and continue to work with federal counterparts, such as Indigenous Services Canada, in alignment with our mandates to advance the restitution of lands for landless First Nations.

Housing and Infrastructure

Housing of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills, and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) Study on Bill C-20, An Act respecting the establishment of Build Canada Homes (Build Canada Homes Act)

Bill C-20, *An Act respecting the establishment of Build Canada Homes* (Build Canada Homes Act) was referred to House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) for study on March 13, 2026.

To support advocacy, on April 16, 2026, AFN sent a written submission for the HUMA study with two amendments and seven recommendations along with an accompanying microsite that provided additional advocacy tools for First Nations. AFN's recommendations focus on the following main areas of consideration:

- Implications of Crown corporation autonomy and federal accountability
- Governance and representation within the Build Canada Homes Crown Corporation



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- Ensuring that closing the First Nations housing is an explicit objective of Build Canada Homes
- Ensuring that investment criteria are not inherently biased against investments on reserve
- For the Committee to support the AFN's call for Canada to enshrine First Nations distinctions-based design, including carve-outs, in nation-building initiatives such as Build Canada Homes and the \$51 billion Build Canada Strong Fund.

The HUMA committee final report was presented without an amendment on May 4, 2026. In parallel, on May 7, 2026, the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce, and the Economy (BANC) was authorized to examine the subject matter of the bill in advance of it coming before Senate. The BANC committee final report did not reference or acknowledge Indigenous housing. The AFN will continue to monitor progress of Bill C-20 and any other future housing related legislation tabled by the federal government.

Senate Standing Committee on National Finance (NFFN) Study on Federal Programs and the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Gap

Federal Programs and the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Gap was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance (NFFN) for study on October 21, 2025.

On February 6, 2026, the AFN sent forward a written submission for the NFFN study which emphasized that First Nations require 150,000 new homes and repairs to 85,000 existing units and that the cost to address the housing gap now exceeds \$135 billion in capital, operations and maintenance. The AFN submission included 20 recommendations supported by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly. AFN's recommendations focus on 5 areas of consideration, including:

- Sustaining recent levels of federal funding
- Providing integrity funding for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Section 95 On-reserve Non-profit Housing Program to ensure no regions would see a decrease in funding
- Including distinctions-based design in nation building initiatives
- Looking ahead: Build Canada Homes (BCH) and Build Canada Strong Fund
- Whole-of-government approach to addressing fundamental barriers to housing

The NFFN committee tabled its final report in March 2026 with 10 recommendations. Of these, only 2 recommendations had acknowledged Indigenous housing, and they do not address the structural funding gap that First Nations experience. The AFN will continue to monitor progress on any other future housing related programs tabled by the federal government.

Fisheries

House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans Study on Marine and Coastal Protection / Establishing Marine Protected Areas

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans reviewed Canada's progress on marine and coastal protection as part of its study on the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development's 2025 report on marine protected areas. The committee examined how protecting and conserving marine and coastal areas, including the role of marine protected areas, marine refuges, and Indigenous-led conservation in supporting biodiversity, ecosystem health, and sustainable fisheries.



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On February 18, 2026, the AFN submitted written testimony emphasizing that marine and coastal protection must be advanced in full partnership with First Nations rights-holders. The submission highlighted that First Nations-led conservation, including Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, reflects First Nations' responsibilities to lands, waters, and resources. AFN further emphasized that marine protection measures must uphold Section 35 rights, align with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and support First Nations jurisdiction, governance, stewardship, food security, and economic well-being.

The AFN will continue to track the Committee's work and federal actions on marine conservation. Future work will focus on advancing First Nations-led conservation, strengthening co-governance models, and ensuring that marine protection initiatives are developed with First Nations from the outset and do not undermine First Nations access to fisheries or decision-making authority.

House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans Study on Factors Determining Opening and Closing Dates of Marine Harvesting Seasons

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans launched a study on the factors determining opening and closing dates of marine harvesting seasons. The study is examining the reasons contributing to Fisheries and Oceans Canada decisions on harvesting season timing, access to fisheries, and fishery quotas, including the impacts of delayed decisions on harvesters' livelihoods and the economy.

The AFN made a submission that emphasized that fisheries openings and closures are jurisdiction and governance issues, not merely operational decisions. On June 1, 2026, the AFN appeared as a witness and provided direct testimony to the Committee to raise concerns regarding overreliance on Ministerial discretion, lack of co-jurisdictional decision-making, delayed or misaligned access, and the ongoing gap between Section 35 obligations and fisheries management practice.

The AFN will continue to engage with First Nations rights-holders, parliamentary committees, and federal departments on fisheries timing, salmon allocation, and broader fisheries governance reform. Future work will focus on advancing co-developed, rights-based fisheries management, strengthening co-jurisdictional governance frameworks, and ensuring First Nations are meaningfully involved in decisions affecting fisheries access, conservation, and community economies.

Environment, Water & Justice

Bill S-2, An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)

This bill was introduced in the Senate in May 2025, to continue efforts to address the remaining inequities in the *Indian Act*. It completed Third Reading on December 4, 2025, resulting in an amendment to the bill that would allow for the removal of the Second-Generation Cut-Off Rule from the *Indian Act*. The bill is currently before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN).

The National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak was invited to appear before the INAN Committee for their study on Bill S-2 on May 7, 2026, and a technical submission was made in follow-up on May 19, 2026. The AFN submission included five recommendations supported by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly. AFN's recommendations are:



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- Establish an opt-in legislative framework enabling First Nations to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over citizenship, including:
 - a. confirmation that nothing in Bill S-2 shall limit, derogate from, or extinguish First Nations' inherent, Treaty, or constitutionally protected jurisdiction over citizenship and membership; and,
 - b. recognition of First Nations citizenship laws as having the force of federal law, with a clear transition pathway from the *Indian Act* regime to Nation-based systems.
- Eliminate all remaining discrimination in registration by abolishing the second-generation cut-off rule and any related sex-, gender-, and race-based inequities in the *Indian Act* registration regime.
- Co-develop, in accordance with the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, a First Nations-led, federally funded National Implementation Framework, including timelines, governance, and dispute resolution and accountability mechanisms.
- Create a statutory funding mechanism that provides adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding to First Nations to administer expanded registration and support population growth and service impacts.
- Establish a process for retroactive compensation and redress for individuals and families harmed by discriminatory provisions of the *Indian Act*, including barriers created by prior non-liability provisions.

AFN will continue to engage with parliamentarians and federal officials to advocate for amendments to Bill S-2 that address remaining inequities in the registration system, while advancing recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over citizenship and membership. Ongoing work will include supporting First Nations participation in the legislative process and promoting First Nations-led approaches to implementation. AFN will also continue to call for the co-development of an implementation framework, including sustainable funding and mechanisms to support the transition to Nation-based citizenship systems.

Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural spaces) (short title: Combatting Hate Act)

Introduced in the House of Commons on September 19, 2025, the *Combatting Hate Act* would amend the *Criminal Code* to strengthen protections against hate propaganda, hate crimes, and intimidation or obstruction targeting people seeking access to religious or cultural spaces. The bill passed Second Reading on October 1, 2025, was studied by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST) and was reported back to the House with amendments on March 13, 2026. The bill is currently before the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (RIDR). Regional Chief Teegee appeared as a witness at the RIDR committee on May 28, 2026, and a written brief was submitted. AFN's intervention supports the intent of the bill to strengthen protections against hate-motivated violence, particularly as it affects First Nations and Indian Residential School (IRS) Survivors. AFN proposes the following six amendments to address gaps in the legislation:

- **Explicit inclusion of IRS denialism:** Amend Bill C-9 to incorporate language, modelled on Bill C-254, that criminalizes the wilful promotion of hatred against First Nations Peoples through the condoning, denial, downplaying, or justification of the Indian Residential School system.
- **Retention of Attorney General consent for site-related offences:** Retain Attorney General consent for intimidation and obstruction offences related to cultural or religious sites, while allowing IRS denialism hate-propaganda offences to proceed without this additional threshold.
- **Definition of "First Nations":** Define "First Nations" in the *Criminal Code* in a manner consistent



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with section 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, to ensure clarity and consistency in the application of the law.

- **For greater certainty – freedom of expression:** Include a “for greater certainty” clause protecting good-faith political, academic, religious, and reconciliation-focused expression
- **Support Codified Definition of “Hatred”:** Retain and support Bill C-9’s codified definition of “hatred” as detestation or vilification, consistent with Supreme Court guidance.
- **Protection for ceremonial and burial grounds:** Clarify that protections related to intimidation and obstruction at cultural or religious sites apply in a manner that respects First Nations ceremonial, burial and memorial practices, including at former residential school sites and associated burial locations.

AFN will continue to advocate for strengthening legislative and policy measures to address hate, including advancing recognition of denialism and its ongoing harms for Survivors and communities. This includes supporting complementary legislative efforts and ensuring alignment with broader reconciliation commitments. AFN will continue to engage parliamentarians to ensure legislation meaningfully protects First Nations, upholds rights, and contributes to accountability and reconciliation.

APPA (Senate) - Government response to the committee's fourteenth report tabled in the Senate during the First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament

The Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples (APPA) is currently undertaking a study on its 2023 report, *Honouring the Children Who Never Came Home: Truth, Education and Reconciliation*, which examined barriers to locating missing children and unmarked burial sites. The study builds on earlier hearings and subsequent work, including the 2024 report, *Missing Records, Missing Children*, highlighting ongoing challenges with record disclosure, jurisdictional complexity, inadequate funding, and denialism. On October 7, 2025, APPA was authorized to revisit the report and assess the government’s response on advancing reconciliation, including six key recommendations.

On behalf of AFN, Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir appeared before APPA on March 26, 2026, with support from AFN staff. AFN’s intervention emphasized the need for full and timely access to records, sustained and predictable funding, and stronger accountability for implementing the recommendations. The intervention also highlights systemic barriers, including fragmented records systems and jurisdictional challenges, and calls for updates on federal progress in implementing the recommendations from both the 2023 and 2024 reports.

AFN will continue to advocate for implementation of the committee’s recommendations and the obligations set out in the final report of the Independent Special Interlocutor on Missing Children and Unmarked Graves. This includes advancing legislative and policy reforms, improving record access, addressing denialism, securing sustainable funding, and supporting First Nations-led approaches to identifying and protecting burial sites.

Bill S-4, An Act to Amend the Energy Efficiency Act

The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment, and Natural Resources (ENEV) conducted a study on Bill S-4, *An Act to amend the Energy Efficiency Act*. Nova Scotia Regional Chief Andrea Paul appeared as a witness on behalf of the AFN on April 23, 2026, and the AFN also submitted a written brief. Bill S-4 seeks to amend Canada’s energy efficiency framework to introduce “regulatory sandboxes” allowing the Minister to grant temporary exemptions from energy efficiency requirements to test new technologies and approaches.



Parliamentary Advocacy Update

It also proposes to add wording to the *Energy Efficiency Act*, which would identify one of the purposes of the Act as fostering collaboration with Indigenous peoples, although it does not go so far as to define what that collaboration should look like.

The AFN's appearance and written submission focused on three broad recommendations to the committee, which call on the Government of Canada to:

- Align "collaboration" as referenced in the legislation with the minimum standards outlined in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;
- Empower First Nations to develop their own energy efficiency frameworks and standards; and
- Embed free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations in any proposed regulatory sandboxes.

The AFN will continue to monitor the progress of Bill S-4 as it completes review in the Senate and advances to the House of Commons. Once the ENEV committee completes its study, the report will be reviewed to determine whether the AFN's recommendations were incorporated, including whether any amendments were made to the bill. There will be an opportunity for further intervention, if required, once the bill is introduced in the House of Commons and is referred to committee.

Social Development

Bill S-212, An Act respecting a national strategy for children and youth in Canada

Bill S-212, introduced on May 25, 2025, aims to create a national strategy on to improve the well-being of children and youth across five dimensions: physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social. It places a strong focus on eradicating child poverty. The bill emphasizes the need to consult with representatives on behalf of First Nations and other Indigenous youth, as well as the need to consider Canada's human rights obligations under Jordan's Principle.

On November 26, 2025, the AFN made a technical submission to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (SOCI) to strengthen the bill's language concerning First Nations children. Three of the AFN's recommendations were accepted by the Committee and were included in the bill's third reading on March 10, 2026, including:

- an amendment to include language that ensures the implementation of First Nations-developed outcomes and indicators for First Nations children's contexts;
- an amendment to ensure that First Nations are meaningfully consulted and included throughout implementation of the *National Strategy for Children and Youth Act*; and,
- an amendment to include the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework as a consideration.

The AFN will continue to advocate for its other recommendations as the bill advances through the legislative process. These include recognizing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry's Calls for Justice as content for the strategy, not just as considerations, and to consult with First Nations rights holders, not just "Indigenous Governing Bodies." The AFN will further continue to advocate for including reference to the *First Nations Indicators of Poverty and Well-*



Parliamentary Advocacy Update

Being in the legislation, inclusion of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's ongoing proceedings pertaining to First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle, and reference to *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.

Health

Bill S-228 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sterilization procedures)

This bill proposes amendments to the Criminal Code concerning forced or coerced sterilization procedures. It would explicitly state that performing a sterilization procedure without free, prior, and informed consent is a form of aggravated assault.

The bill was introduced May 26th, 2025, and it completed the third reading in the Senate on October 2, 2025. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) prepared a written submission on April 10th 2026, based on the original Bill S- 250 submission, with the purpose of supporting the bill with six proposed legal amendments:

- **Consideration 1:** Legal Safeguards and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
- **Consideration 2:** Language Use
- **Consideration 3:** Protection of Indigenous and Racialized Persons
- **Consideration 4:** Impartial Investigations in Sterilization Cases
- **Consideration 5:** Repeated Offences
- **Consideration 6:** Punishment for Forced or Coerced Sterilization

The AFN did not appear as a witness for Bill-S228. The bill was introduced to the House of Commons on November 18, 2025, and the report stage was completed by May 4, 2026. It is currently in third reading in the House of Commons.

Beyond the passage of Bill S-228, it is critical to address deep-rooted, systemic issues that have led to First Nations women being more often the victims of forced sterilization. The AFN will continue to support the Survivor's Circle of Reproductive Justice, advocate for the expansion of the national registry, ensure access to culturally grounded healing resources, and advance ongoing advocacy to uphold and protect the reproductive autonomy of First Nations women.

Languages and Learning

Bill C-15, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on November 4, 2025

Bill C-15, *Budget Implementation Act*, implements a range of fiscal and legislative measures announced in the November 2025 federal budget. The bill includes amendments across multiple departments and programs related to federal spending decisions and adjust existing legislative frameworks governing service delivery and program administration.

On February 12, 2026, National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) and raised serious concerns regarding the 2025 federal budget and its



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impact on First Nations. She highlighted that, while federal transfers to provinces increased, First Nations programs experienced cuts and uncertainty. A focus of the intervention was the government's failure to renew key sunset programs, including over 300 First Nations adult education programs which are scheduled to expire in 2026/2027.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will continue to advocate for the renewal and expansion of First Nations adult education funding. This work will be informed by ongoing policy development and the AFN's *Adult Education Program and Infrastructure Costing Analysis* research, which estimates that significantly higher investment is required to support First Nations lifelong learning.

The AFN will also continue coordination with First Nations leadership to ensure advocacy reflects regional priorities and supports long-term jurisdiction over First Nations education systems in line with AFN Resolution 26/2025, *Support for the Renewal and Expansion of First Nations Adult Education Funding*.

Financial statements of National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2026

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive Committee of National Indian Brotherhood

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2026, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("Canadian GAAS"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, in the Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the Annual Report prior to the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in this auditor's report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Deloitte LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants
July 14, 2026

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations

Year ended March 31, 2026

	Schedules	2026 \$	2025 \$
Revenue			
Indigenous Services Canada	A	34,128,490	38,584,845
Environment and Climate Change Canada	B	3,225,690	4,255,187
Natural Resources Canada	B	1,342,878	857,122
Employment and Social Development Canada	B	1,342,751	1,300,193
Justice Canada	B	1,013,060	2,523,827
Canadian Heritage	B	965,159	948,207
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	B	908,610	1,147,706
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	B	581,017	580,679
Health Canada	B	248,771	232,388
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	B	246,493	317,389
Veteran Affairs Canada	B	220,341	144,960
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	B	216,990	162,773
Status of Women Canada	B	195,142	—
Parks Canada	B	188,775	190,415
Global Affairs Canada	B	187,431	—
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	B	182,262	332,375
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation	B	125,039	49,169
Infrastructure Canada	B	112,250	112,750
Canadian Internet Registration Authority	B	100,000	—
University of Ottawa	B	96,800	158,578
Transport Canada	B	30,685	95,039
Women and Gender Equality Canada	B	—	641,885
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	B	—	161,069
Canada Water Agency	B	—	139,200
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	B	—	39,701
Social Science and Humanities Research Council	B	—	36,000
Law Foundation of Ontario	B	—	1,681
Interest revenue	B	1,755,779	1,953,335
Miscellaneous revenue	B	1,451,729	1,065,188
Registration fees	B	1,386,232	1,762,094
Trade show fees	B	523,130	476,350
		50,775,504	58,270,105
Expenses			
Advertising, promotion and publications		636,491	625,496
Amortization of capital assets		306,444	304,561
Insurance		57,854	52,382
Miscellaneous		221,722	24,771
Office expenses		959,803	1,470,383
Professional fees		7,490,396	6,904,706
Regional service delivery		6,144,175	6,245,841
Rent	10	1,533,830	1,508,477
Salaries and benefits		19,594,192	20,949,790
Travel and meetings		13,070,109	17,249,844
	A and B	50,015,016	55,336,251
Excess of revenue over expenses		760,488	2,933,854

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements

National Indian Brotherhood
Statement of financial position
As at March 31, 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash		49,385,818	53,430,082
Grants and contributions receivable	4	1,552,661	2,843,653
Other accounts receivable		275,420	600,559
Sales tax recoverable		1,467,016	1,859,534
Prepaid expenses		932,872	879,312
		53,613,787	59,613,140
Asset held in trust	3	19,042	18,459
Prepaid expenses		93,732	149,187
Capital assets	5	3,611,604	3,912,562
		57,338,165	63,693,348
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		7,591,691	10,417,073
Government remittances payable		66,150	355,500
Deferred revenue		2,556,178	3,001,479
Deferred contributions	7	28,576,167	34,197,787
Excess contributions	8	4,137,641	1,893,180
Current portion of deferred lease inducement	6	179,062	179,062
		43,106,889	50,044,081
Deferred lease inducement	6	2,289,832	2,468,894
Liability held in trust	3	19,042	18,459
		45,415,763	52,531,434
Contingencies and commitments	9 and 10		
Net assets			
Invested in capital assets		1,142,710	1,264,606
Internally restricted		3,750,631	3,750,631
Operating fund		7,029,061	6,146,677
		11,922,402	11,161,914
		57,338,165	63,693,348

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak

Andrew Bisson
Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Bisson

National Indian Brotherhood
Statement of changes in net assets
Year ended March 31, 2026

	Invested in capital assets \$	Internally restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	2026 Total \$	2025 Total \$
Net assets, beginning of year	1,264,606	3,750,631	6,146,677	11,161,914	8,228,060
Excess of revenue over expenses	—	—	760,488	760,488	2,933,854
Acquisition of capital assets	5,486	—	(5,486)	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	(306,444)	—	306,444	—	—
Amortization of inducements for leasehold improvements	179,062	—	(179,062)	—	—
Net assets, end of year	1,142,710	3,750,631	7,029,061	11,922,402	11,161,914

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

National Indian Brotherhood**Statement of cash flows**

Year ended March 31, 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$
Operating activities			
Excess of revenue over expenses		760,488	2,933,854
Items not affecting cash			
Amortization of capital assets		306,444	304,561
Amortization of lease inducement		(179,062)	(179,062)
		887,870	3,059,353
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items	11	(4,926,648)	18,290,731
		(4,038,778)	21,350,084
Investing activity			
Acquisition of capital assets		(5,486)	(63,130)
Net (decrease) increase in cash		(4,044,264)	21,286,954
Cash, beginning of year		53,430,082	32,143,128
Cash, end of year		49,385,818	53,430,082

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

1. Description of the organization

National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation") was incorporated under Part II of the *Canada Corporations Act* on September 29, 1970. In June 2014, the Corporation received a certificate of continuance under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. The Corporation has the following objectives:

- To assist and to work toward solutions for problems facing the First Nations people;
- To operate as a national body to both represent the First Nations people and to disseminate information to them;
- To study, in conjunction with First Nations representatives across Canada, the problems confronting First Nations and to make representations to the government and other organizations on their behalf;
- To assist in retaining the First Nations culture and values; and
- To act as the national spokesperson for First Nations throughout Canada.

The Corporation acts as the secretariat to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

The Corporation is a not-for-profit organization and, as such, is not subject to income taxes.

2. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

Basis of presentation

The financial statements do not include the accounts of those of the Future Generations Foundation (formerly the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund), which is controlled by the Corporation. Summarized financial statements of the Future Generations Foundation are disclosed in Note 12 of the financial statements.

Revenue recognition

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Contributions received toward the acquisition of capital assets are deferred and amortized to revenue on the same basis as the related depreciable capital assets are amortized.

Interest revenue is recognized in the period in which it is earned.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

Initial measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions are initially recognized at fair value when the Corporation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the Corporation is in the capacity of management, are initially recognized at cost.

The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. The cost of financial instruments with repayment terms is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. The cost of financial instruments without repayment terms is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Corporation in the transaction.

Subsequent measurement

All financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost with the exception of cash and investments which are recorded at fair value.

The interest earned on investments, the unrealized gains and losses on listed stocks, and the realized gains and losses on the sale of investments are included in the investment income of the statement of operations.

Transaction costs

Transaction costs related to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are expensed as incurred. Transaction costs related to other financial instruments are added to the carrying value of the asset or netted against the carrying value of the liability and are then recognized over the expected life of the instrument using the effective interest method. Any premium or discount related to an instrument measured at amortized cost is amortized over the expected life of the item using the effective interest method and recognized in net earnings as interest income or expense.

Impairment

With respect to financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Corporation recognizes an impairment loss, if any, in net earnings when there are indicators of impairment and it determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows. When the extent of impairment of a previously written-down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed to net earnings in the period the reversal occurs.

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of contribution. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	3 years
Leasehold improvements	Term of lease

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Lease inducement

The lease inducement is amortized over the term of the lease and accounted for as a reduction to the rent expense.

Excess contributions

The excess of revenue over expenses of some programs may require repayment and is recorded as a liability. When approval to retain the funds has been received, the excess is then recorded as revenue when expenditures are incurred or recorded back in deferred revenue.

Allocation of expenses

Allocation of administrative expenses between the programs or funding agencies is done in accordance with the stipulated basis of allocation and maximum amounts or percentages mentioned in each of the different contribution agreements entered into by the Corporation.

Use of estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and the accompanying notes. In the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect, within reasonable limits of materiality, all adjustments necessary to present fairly the results for the years presented. Assumptions are used in estimating the collectability of grants and contributions receivable, other accounts receivable, the useful life of capital assets, the amount of certain accrued liabilities and the allocation of expenses. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. Asset held in trust

The Corporation is holding in trust an education fund totalling \$19,042 (\$18,459 in 2025) for Kelly Morrisseau's children. These funds were donated by individuals and organizations.

4. Grants and contributions receivable

Grants and contributions receivable are as follows:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Indigenous Services Canada	722,115	1,274,890
Environment and Climate Change Canada	409,778	74,725
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	206,006	306,216
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	182,262	332,375
Natural Resources Canada	10,000	110,000
Infrastructure Canada	22,500	—
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	—	191,740
Employment and Social Development Canada	—	107,002
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	—	317,390
Justice Canada	—	50,000
Women and Gender Equality Canada	—	44,173
Transport Canada	—	35,142
	1,552,661	2,843,653

5. Capital assets

	Cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	2026 Net book value \$	2025 Net book value \$
Office equipment	52,280	35,140	17,140	28,777
Leasehold improvements	4,340,040	745,576	3,594,464	3,883,785
	4,392,320	780,716	3,611,604	3,912,562

Cost and accumulated amortization as at March 31, 2025, amount to \$5,127,678 and \$1,215,116, respectively.

6. Deferred lease inducement

In September 2022, the Corporation entered into a 180-month lease agreement expiring on August 31, 2038 for premises. The lease provided for leasehold improvement allowances and a rent-free period. As at March 31, 2026, the unamortized balance is \$2,468,894 (\$2,647,956 in 2025).

7. Deferred contributions

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	34,197,787	26,006,985
Contributions received during the year	40,037,014	61,203,942
Contributions recognized during the year	(45,658,634)	(53,013,140)
Balance, end of year	28,576,167	34,197,787

The balance, end of year is composed of the following:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Indigenous Services Canada	16,121,838	23,197,191
Employment and Social Development Canada	5,079,557	5,227,307
Canadian Heritage	1,797,939	931,199
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	1,792,819	—
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	1,338,246	1,555,235
Global Affairs Canada	612,569	—
Environment and Climate Change Canada	410,606	1,304,645
Health Canada	368,828	267,599
Parks Canada	293,994	282,770
Veteran Affairs Canada	259,575	79,915
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation	225,792	150,831
Building Knowledges Canada	125,000	—
Justice Canada	67,883	780,943
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	67,245	—
Transport Canada	14,276	34,963
Natural Resources Canada	—	242,878
Women and Gender Equality Canada	—	98,319
Infrastructure Canada	—	43,992
	28,576,167	34,197,787

8. Excess contributions

Excess contributions are as follows:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Indigenous Services Canada	3,081,423	488,626
Canadian Heritage	711,416	711,416
Public Safety Canada	194,838	194,838
Parks Canada	70,240	70,240
Environment and Climate Change Canada	49,402	—
Justice Canada	17,722	17,722
Fisheries and Ocean Canada	12,600	12,600
Status of Women Canada	—	195,142
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	—	188,025
Health Canada	—	14,571
	4,137,641	1,893,180

9. Contingencies

The Corporation receives funding from various government agencies based on specific program needs and budgets and allocates certain expenses to the various programs. In many cases, the funding agency has the right to review the accounting records to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their programs. At this time, no estimate of the requirements, if any, to reimburse the agencies can be made. Management of the Corporation believes that its allocations of expenses are fair and appropriate in the circumstances.

Adjustments to the financial statements as a result of these reviews, if any, will be recorded in the period in which they become known. From time to time, the Corporation is involved in claims in the normal course of business. Management assesses such claims and where considered likely to result in material exposure and, where the amount of the claim is quantifiable, provisions for loss are made based on management's assessment of the likely outcome. The Corporation does not provide for claims that are considered unlikely to result in significant loss, claims for which the outcome is not determinable or claims where the amount of the loss cannot be reasonably estimated. Any settlements or awards under such claims are provided when reasonably determinable.

10. Commitments

The Corporation is committed to future minimum lease payments under operating leases for office space and equipment maturing in 2038, for which minimum annual payments for each year are as follows:

	<u>\$</u>
2027	1,614,656
2028	1,601,487
2029	1,637,143
2030	1,603,402
2031	1,577,723
2032 and thereafter	<u>11,901,238</u>
	<u>19,935,649</u>

11. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Grants and contributions receivable	1,290,992	6,026,057
Other accounts receivable	325,139	2,036,572
Sales tax recoverable	392,518	(1,120,103)
Prepaid expenses	1,895	(222,873)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(2,825,382)	1,540,846
Government remittances payable	(289,350)	(265,927)
Deferred revenue	(445,301)	2,960,688
Deferred contributions	(5,621,620)	8,190,802
Excess contributions	2,244,461	(855,331)
	(4,926,648)	18,290,731

12. Controlled entity

The Corporation appoints the trustees of the Future Generations Foundation (formerly National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund), a registered charity under paragraph 149(l)(f) of the *Income Tax Act*, to administer the Youth Healing Fund, the Research Sponsor Fund, the Heroes of Our Time Fund, the Education Fund, the Métis Fund, and the Education Legacy Fund. The Future Generations Foundation is deemed a non-profit organization under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), and accordingly is not subject to income taxes.

The summarized financial statements of the Future Generations Foundation are as follows:

Summarized statement of financial position

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Assets	327,330,311	275,383,588
Liabilities	3,776,973	3,074,095
Fund balances	323,553,338	272,309,493
	327,330,311	275,383,588

Summarized statement of operations

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Revenue	71,562,524	28,793,668
Expenses	20,318,679	19,727,878
Excess of revenue over expenses	51,243,845	9,065,790

12. Controlled entity (continued)

Summarized statement of cash flows

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Operating activities	52,596,074	(3,478,319)
Investing activities	(51,331,831)	4,209,553
Net increase in cash	1,264,243	731,234
Cash, beginning of year	2,364,418	1,633,184
Cash, end of year	3,628,661	2,364,418

As at March 31, 2026, the balance due from the Future Generations Foundation was \$3,230 (nil in 2025).

The Future Generations Foundation continued to share office space with the Corporation in Akwesasne at an annual cost of \$19,382 (\$15,162 in 2025).

The transactions with the Future Generations Foundation have been recorded at their exchange amount which is the amount in accordance with the agreements signed between the parties.

13. Executive salaries

By virtue of an annual general assembly resolution (62/98), the National Chief of the AFN receives a salary which is adjusted annually in connection with the consumer price index. Similarly, by virtue of a Confederacy of Nations resolution and an Executive Committee resolution, each Regional Chief is allocated a director's fee. Management and unelected officials are compensated within average industry remuneration levels for their positions.

14. Pension plan

The Corporation contributes to a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. Contributions are up to 8% of an employee's salary. The employer's contributions for the year were \$1,110,733 (\$1,211,137 in 2025).

15. Credit facility

The Corporation has a banking agreement which establishes a demand credit facility for general business purposes up to a maximum of \$2,500,000, bearing interest at prime plus 1%, renewable annually. The credit facility is secured by a general security agreement representing a first share over all of the Corporation's assets. The balance outstanding at year-end is nil (nil in 2025).

16. Financial instruments

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Corporation's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Corporation is not exposed to market risk.

Credit risk

The risk arises from the potential that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss.

The Corporation's various receivables represent credit provided for the Corporation's programs. The credit is provided mainly to the federal government and accordingly presents minimal credit risk to the Corporation.

The maximum credit exposure of the Corporation is represented by the fair value of various amounts receivable as presented in the statement of financial position.

17. Capital management

The Corporation considers its capital to consist of net assets. The Corporation's overall objective is to effectively use resources to maximize the ability to achieve its vision, fund tangible capital assets, future projects and ongoing operations. The Corporation manages net assets by establishing internally restricted funds and appropriating amounts to the restricted funds for anticipated future projects, contingencies and other capital requirements. These allocations are disclosed in the statement of changes in net assets.

The Corporation is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

Internally restricted net assets

Net assets are internally restricted for specific operating purposes as authorized by the Board of Directors from time to time. Internally restricted balances are supported by a clear statement of purpose, and an anticipated time frame for the accumulation and draw down of the balance at the time established.

The purpose of any internally restricted balance is consistent with the objectives of the Corporation's strategic initiatives and operating plans, as well as identified risks to the achievement of these objectives.

During the year ended March 31, 2026, an amount of nil (\$102,317 in 2025) was transferred from internally restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets to fund the new office move.

18. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule A – Indigenous Services Canada / CIRNA

	Basic Organizational Capacity	Core-Like	New Fiscal Relationship	New Fiscal Relationship Co-development	Consultation on the Renewal Duty to Consult	Additions to Reserve Redesign	100 Wellington Project	Economic Research on ATR Process Supplementary Fund
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	8,545,726	—	—	173,274	90,000	—	359,348	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	1,844,333	187,375	—	110,000	305,014	—	79,925
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8,545,726	1,844,333	187,375	173,274	200,000	305,014	359,348	79,925
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	162,599	—	3,018	4,776	—	1,332	—	6,930
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	—	—	—	21,499	22,134	10,425
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	13,233	—	275	420	—	749	—	—
Miscellaneous	7,406	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	170,485	—	4,228	2,209	572	1,192	639	14,089
Professional fees	1,110,890	—	241	—	2,495	32,614	24,408	29,638
Regional service delivery	—	1,784,021	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	384,086	—	9,008	13,903	—	25,036	29,657	—
Salaries and benefits	5,304,440	—	167,693	138,380	183,686	222,593	282,511	—
Travel and meetings	1,392,586	60,313	2,913	13,586	13,248	—	—	18,844
	8,545,726	1,844,333	187,375	173,274	200,000	305,014	359,348	79,925
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule A – Indigenous Services Canada / CIRNA (Continued)

	Comprehensive Claims Justice	Facilitate Reform of Specific Claims Policy	Facilitate Reform of Specific Claims/ATR Policies	New Band and Band Amalgamation Policy Review	Advancing FN Int'l Engagement RES 2026	MMIWG2S Engagement & Support Funding	2nd Generation Cut-off ISCs10 Voting Thresholds
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue							
Contributions/grants	—	—	4,578	24,753	10,000	500,000	20,000
Contributions/grants - prior years	176,266	146,505	201,114	—	—	—	—
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	176,266	146,505	201,114	24,753	10,000	500,000	20,000
Expenses							
Advertising, promotion and publications	172	22	7,465	—	—	11,701	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	19,109	14,210	597	—	39,379	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	—	659	—	—	1,082	—
Miscellaneous	—	2,700	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	65	4,468	5,894	—	—	18,822	—
Professional fees	—	47,129	18,850	—	—	23,693	1,603
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	—	22,363	—	—	38,782	1,996
Salaries and benefits	172,138	—	96,610	3,981	5,846	145,949	16,401
Travel and meetings	3,891	73,077	35,063	—	4,154	220,592	—
	176,266	146,505	201,114	24,753	10,000	500,000	20,000
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule A – Indigenous Services Canada / CIRNA (Continued)

	Steering Committee on FN Home Flood Insurance Risk	Costing Income Assistance Research	Jordan's Principle	National Forum on Income Assistance	FNIVES - Summer Student	Bill C-92	FN Child & Family Services Program	Consultation Committee on Child Welfare
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	—	—	—	599,755	—	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	59,441	835,302	828,455	459,510	19,488	343,080	426,388	80,683
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	59,441	835,302	828,455	1,059,265	19,488	343,080	426,388	80,683
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	—	9,455	6,617	1,812	11,061	8,806	481
Allocation of administrative expenses	6,106	58,277	75,314	96,296	—	31,189	38,763	7,334
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	—	769	591	172	990	800	29
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	—	—	20,165	16,531	1,020	10,599	10,896	533
Professional fees	2,500	777,025	46,728	71,017	—	—	149,450	—
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	(160,716)	—	(51,320)
Rent	3,954	—	25,883	19,881	5,869	33,304	26,942	1,411
Salaries and benefits	—	—	285,094	285,098	10,615	390,031	158,442	117,374
Travel and meetings	46,880	—	365,048	563,233	—	26,624	32,290	4,840
	59,441	835,302	828,455	1,059,265	19,488	343,080	426,388	80,683
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule A – Indigenous Services Canada/CIRNA (Continued)

	FNCFS Regional/Virtual Engagements	Economic Development	Housing and Infrastructure	Sparking Prosperity	Languages And Learning	FN Climate Leadership Agenda	FMM Climate Change	Treaty Commissioner
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	—	—	1,822,513	—	1,137,254	—	2,027,565	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	104,892	55,469	5,475,242	350,000	1,599,205	56,025	—	141,825
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	104,892	55,469	7,297,754	350,000	2,736,459	56,025	2,027,565	141,825
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	—	56,139	331	40,387	1,615	8,965	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	5,039	581,786	20,331	17,324	5,093	177,084	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	—	4,840	29	3,104	166	830	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	336	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	—	3,289	96,392	21,740	43,408	1,168	23,100	1,281
Professional fees	104,892	23,889	1,564,401	184,119	354,895	2,342	68,608	1,670
Regional service delivery	—	—	1,150,000	—	—	—	1,050,000	—
Rent	—	—	162,734	981	104,586	5,577	27,708	13,764
Salaries and benefits	—	—	1,772,320	50,025	786,340	39,082	280,059	123,449
Travel and meetings	—	23,252	1,908,807	72,444	1,386,414	982	391,213	1,661
	104,892	55,469	7,297,754	350,000	2,736,459	56,025	2,027,565	141,825
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule A – Indigenous Services Canada /CIRNA (Continued)

	Support Ishkonigan Papal Expenses	Home and Community Care	NIHB	Health Governance	Tuberculosis	E-Health	Data Sharing	TB Prevention
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	—	40,000	252,829	1,436,746	—	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	42,899	40,000	856,809	940,675	180,000	27,221	100,740	13,549
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	42,899	80,000	1,109,637	2,377,421	180,000	27,221	100,740	13,549
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	—	3,912	54,348	—	—	331	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	7,273	100,876	215,900	16,364	2,475	—	1,232
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	9,265	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	—	351	4,371	—	—	29	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	344	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	—	—	21,121	50,227	—	—	327	—
Professional fees	—	—	115,750	234,610	38,172	(2,404)	—	8,487
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	—	11,825	147,293	—	—	981	—
Salaries and benefits	—	—	159,801	1,266,156	—	2,848	99,072	—
Travel and meetings	42,899	72,727	696,001	394,906	125,464	24,301	—	3,830
	42,899	80,000	1,109,637	2,377,421	180,000	27,221	100,740	13,549
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule A – Indigenous Services Canada / CIRNA (Continued)

		FN Peoples		2026		2025
	Environmental Health HHR	Pandemic Preparedness Plan	Emergency Management	Total	Total	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	84,692	17,631	—	17,146,664	26,849,875	
Contributions/grants - prior years	282,862	—	611,534	16,981,826	11,734,970	
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
	367,554	17,631	611,534	34,128,490	38,584,845	
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	8,362	—	17	410,653	420,961	
Allocation of administrative expenses	33,414	1,603	54,724	1,682,845	1,907,346	
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	9,265	8,514	
Insurance	723	—	1,668	35,880	34,041	
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	10,786	8,678	
Office expenses	5,387	58	19,224	569,127	811,557	
Professional fees	45,459	14,625	—	5,097,795	6,180,597	
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	3,771,985	5,045,841	
Rent	24,376	—	39,006	1,180,907	1,191,525	
Salaries and benefits	246,929	—	465,680	13,301,700	13,678,544	
Travel and meetings	2,904	1,346	31,215	8,057,547	9,297,241	
	367,554	17,631	611,534	34,128,490	38,584,845	
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
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Schedule B – Other Funding

	Canadian Internet Registration Authority - Net Good Program	Canadian Heritage - Full Implementation of Indigenous Languages Act	Canadian Heritage - Museum Assistance Program	Department of Fisheries and Oceans - AAROM	Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Advancing Marine IPCAs	Employment and Social Development Canada - National School Food Program
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	100,000	33,959	—	665,289	243,321	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	831,199	100,000	—	—	13,739
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
	100,000	865,159	100,000	665,289	243,321	13,739
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	10,459	—	11,893	2,958	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	10,000	60,692	10,000	40,299	22,060	1,580
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	939	—	1,044	348	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	—	11,267	629	14,076	2,276	378
Professional fees	37,500	30,022	—	3,312	22,178	—
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	31,597	—	35,344	15,225	—
Salaries and benefits	43,497	555,962	—	445,561	131,001	—
Travel and meetings	9,003	164,220	107,081	113,761	47,275	11,781
	100,000	865,159	117,710	665,289	243,321	13,739
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	(17,710)	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
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Schedule B – Other Funding (Continued)

	Employment and Social Development Canada - Federal Labour Protections	Employment and Social Development Canada - First Nations Indicators of Poverty and Well-Being	Employment and Social Development Canada - First Nations Early Learning and Childcare	Employment and Social Development Canada - First Nation Labour Market Participation	Employment and Social Development Canada - First Nations Work to the 2030 Agenda	Employment and Social Development Canada - Needs Of First Nations Persons with Disabilities
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	—	—	292,535	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	177,538	4,050	88,481	484,319	244,953	37,136
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
	177,538	4,050	381,016	484,319	244,953	37,136
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	28	—	10,976	7,149	2,165	720
Allocation of administrative expenses	19,022	434	40,823	51,891	26,245	3,376
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	—	986	152	188	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	1,030	3,616	14,233	24,181	16,183	595
Professional fees	1,650	—	2,500	95,920	62,500	12,751
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	—	33,194	—	6,347	—
Salaries and benefits	71,518	—	236,720	3,371	77,378	—
Travel and meetings	84,290	—	41,585	301,654	53,948	19,694
	177,538	4,050	381,016	484,319	244,953	37,136
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule B – Other Funding (Continued)

	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Transforming Species at Risk	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Transforming Species at Risk	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Participation in the National Steering Committee	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Indigenous Reps to Engage in Conservation	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Chronic Wasting Disease	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Climate Action Website Maintenance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	153,950	—	37,506	27,000	208,371	80,000
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	62,780	227,601	—	209,174	—
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
	153,950	62,780	265,107	27,000	417,545	80,000
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	253	—	4,013	577	3,091	2,218
Allocation of administrative expenses	8,941	5,707	20,000	1,900	53,775	4,750
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	26	—	361	5	282	88
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	9,513	—	15,705	2,409	12,752	43,481
Professional fees	19,973	—	36,250	—	77,600	2,500
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	924	—	12,195	185	9,567	2,953
Salaries and benefits	61,109	—	112,988	15,762	70,379	24,011
Travel and meetings	53,211	57,072	63,595	6,162	190,100	—
	153,950	62,780	265,107	27,000	417,545	80,000
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
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Schedule B – Other Funding (Continued)

	Environment and Climate Change Canada - First Nation Nature Table	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Inclusion of First Nations Climate Science	Environment and Climate Change Canada - CWA Canada Water Agency	George Cedric Metcalf Foundation - Support of FN Led Conservation	Global Affairs Canada Our Collective Futures: Indigenous People Partnering for Lands and Waters	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation - Indigenous Led Marine Conservation
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	1,339,394	37,804	86,421	—	187,431	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	755,689	—	—	125,039	—	216,990
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2,095,083	37,804	86,421	125,039	187,431	216,990
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	14,757	560	1,812	1,998	1,908	4,634
Allocation of administrative expenses	190,458	3,437	14,881	11,352	—	14,679
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	1,296	52	162	180	171	409
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	22,154	291	974	4,394	1,027	6,121
Professional fees	82,721	2,500	2,500	4,700	147,298	4,855
Regional service delivery	899,742	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	43,699	1,754	5,450	6,076	5,763	13,835
Salaries and benefits	630,246	29,005	60,251	95,037	0	165,347
Travel and meetings	210,010	205	391	1,302	31,264	7,110
	2,095,083	37,804	86,421	125,039	187,431	216,990
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

Schedule B – Other Funding (Continued)

	Health Canada - Chemicals Management Plan Engagement	Housing Infrastructure Communities Canada - Reaching Home	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada - Policy Dialogue Program	Infrastructure Canada - Investigating Homelessness Among FN Veteran's	Justice Canada - First Nations Distinctions- Based Approach to Implement UNDA	Justice Canada - First Nations Justice Strategy National Engage- ment Framework
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	—	—	182,262	68,258	300,000	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	248,771	246,493	—	43,992	—	713,060
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
	248,771	246,493	182,262	112,250	300,000	713,060
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	3,524	3,130	4,659	—	7,535	15,722
Allocation of administrative expenses	13,499	25,377	15,693	12,008	14,364	52,819
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	316	286	387	—	153	1,216
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	1,933	4,345	2,223	9,007	19,141	36,999
Professional fees	12,750	57	29,798	45,475	42,592	117,090
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	10,655	9,829	13,023	—	5,715	41,503
Salaries and benefits	101,256	189,955	110,526	—	140,861	174,979
Travel and meetings	104,838	13,513	5,953	45,760	69,639	272,732
	248,771	246,493	182,262	112,250	300,000	713,060
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—

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Schedule B – Other Funding (Continued)

	Natural Resources Canada - Indigenous Participation in Dialogues	Natural Resources Canada - National Engagement on Natural Resources	Nuclear Waste Management Organization - Adaptive Phased Management	University of Ottawa - FEHNCY	Parks Canada - Collaboration in Conservation	Transport Canada - Community Participation Funding Program
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	100,000	1,000,000	299,428	96,800	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	242,878	281,589	—	188,775	30,685
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—
	100,000	1,242,878	581,017	96,800	188,775	30,685
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	13,662	7,306	3,240	2,847	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	10,714	133,165	34,111	8,800	18,194	1,152
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	1,654	657	145	174	—
Miscellaneous	—	10,020	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	499	15,174	18,813	1,765	7,555	554
Professional fees	—	129,397	126,030	2,500	2,075	5,530
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	61,129	30,163	4,918	2,292	—
Salaries and benefits	67,605	431,528	278,087	66,149	78,849	—
Travel and meetings	21,182	447,148	85,850	9,283	76,790	23,449
	100,000	1,242,878	581,017	96,800	188,775	30,685
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
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Schedule B – Other Funding (Continued)

	Veteran Affairs - Investigating Homelessness Among FN Veterans Across Canada	Veteran Affairs - Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund	Status of Women Canada - FN's Women Economic Security and Prosperity	Other	2026	2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue						
Contributions/grants	—	140,425	195,142	—	5,634,873	9,168,956
Contributions/grants - prior years	79,915	—	—	—	5,397,392	5,259,339
Interest revenue	—	—	—	1,755,779	1,755,779	1,953,335
Registration fees	—	—	—	1,386,232	1,386,232	1,762,094
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	1,451,729	1,451,729	1,025,548
Trade show fees	—	—	—	523,130	523,130	476,350
	79,915	140,425	195,142	5,116,870	16,149,135	19,685,260
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	—	—	82,044	225,810	204,535
Allocation of administrative expenses	4,164	23,404	—	(2,666,613)	(1,740,150)	(1,907,346)
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	297,178	297,178	296,047
Insurance	—	—	—	10,295	21,974	18,341
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	200,915	210,935	16,094
Office expenses	—	—	—	65,385	389,147	658,828
Professional fees	—	—	—	1,230,078	2,390,952	724,109
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	1,472,449	2,372,191	1,200,000
Rent	—	—	—	(50,411)	352,923	316,954
Salaries and benefits	—	66,650	195,142	1,561,764	6,086,719	7,271,247
Travel and meetings	75,751	50,372	—	2,135,589	4,780,967	7,952,597
	79,915	140,425	195,142	4,338,673	15,388,647	16,751,406
Excess of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	778,197	760,488	2,933,854