The First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting: Frequently Asked Questions

Please note the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting (FNFMM) is not an AFN event, and it is not an Assembly. It is a high-level forum hosted by the Government of Canada with limited attendance. Participation is limited to designated Chiefs as determined by Regional leadership. No registration or accreditation is available through the AFN.

When is the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting taking place and what is the location?

The FNFMM will take place on October 25 and 26, 2026 in Ottawa, Ontario on the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation. The meeting will be held within two kilometres of downtown Ottawa. The specific location will be communicated soon by the Government of Canada.

What plans are in place for the Day of Ceremony on October 25?

The purpose of the Day of Ceremony on October 25 is to start the FNFMM in a good way, grounded in ceremony, as called for by First Nations. First Nations have directed the AFN to ensure the Prime Minister and Premiers are involved in the Day of Ceremony.

The Day of Ceremony will take place near the site of the FNFMM.

The AFN has convened meetings with Elders and Knowledge Keepers from all regions to provide guidance on the day. The current plan is for the ceremony to begin with Algonquin protocols and provide space for First Nations from across the country to bring forward their own ceremonies and songs.

It is proposed that the morning of October 25 focus on First Nations ceremony, for First Nations gathered for the FNFMM. There will then be a Joint Ceremony in the afternoon with the Prime Minister and Premiers. The ceremony will conclude with a Feast and the event is expected to finish late afternoon. The plan is to keep the Sacred Fire burning and the ceremony site in place throughout the FNFMM.

A more detailed program will be shared once confirmed.

How have First Nations been engaged to provide input into topics, agenda and outcomes?

The AFN negotiated a Fall 2026 date to ensure Chiefs had time to discuss the FNFMM at a variety of regional, national and virtual venues, particularly July's AFN Annual General Assembly. Significant time was dedicated for Chiefs to develop, debate and approve resolutions that provide essential direction to the AFN. The mandates have guided the AFN's work since July.

The National Chief and AFN representatives have attended numerous regional gatherings to provide information on the FNFMM and dialogue with First Nations. The AFN Regional Chiefs meet regularly to discuss planning and progress.

The AFN has held three virtual gatherings to support broad participation from First Nations across the country. More information on the Virtual Gatherings is available at https://afn.ca/events/first-nations-first-ministers-meeting/.

The planning process included a series of engagements with First Nations leadership and technicians to inform the agenda, drawing on lessons from past processes and identifying priority issues for collective action.

Who will be seated in the main meeting room, and how will regional First Nations representatives be selected??

The AFN was allocated a limited number of badges that provide access to the main FNFMM meeting room. AFN Regional Chiefs are working with Chiefs in their respective regions on participation in the main meeting room, with seats allocated according to the number of First Nations in each region. These arrangements are being finalized and are being communicated to Chiefs by their Regional Office.

There will be no proxies or proxy process for Chiefs at the FNFMM.

In addition to First Nations representatives, the Prime Minister and Premiers will be in the main meeting room.

Why are there only a limited number of seats and room-access badges?

The reality is that the FNFMM main meeting room will only accommodate a limited number of individuals due to practical matters such as security and fire safety.

Will every Chief have an opportunity to speak?

Unfortunately, a one-day meeting cannot provide formal speaking time for every Chief. The formal agenda must remain focused.

However, to make sure as many Chiefs as possible can be present, the AFN is working with Regional Chiefs, federal and provincial officials to finalize event and security details (see above). These will be finalized soon with federal and provincial representatives and communicated in collaboration with the Government of Canada.

How can I get my position stated if I don't have an opportunity to speak?

Through the engagement process, Chiefs have identified a series of ways Chiefs and First Nations can advance priorities and have their messages heard:

- The AFN has created a dedicated email address to receive comments on any areas related to the FNFMM, including AFN position papers, the FNFMM agenda, and suggestions for the National Chief's messaging and points: **fnfmm@afn.ca**
- Regional events and gatherings
- Providing points to Regional Chiefs
- Written submissions, letters and policy papers can be compiled and shared with First Ministers.
- Informal engagement may be possible during the October 25 and 26 gatherings, including breaks and lunch.
- Space may be available for bilateral or regional discussions, subject to final logistical arrangements.
- Chiefs will be free to communicate publicly and engage with media attending the gathering.

Where can I learn more?

You can learn more by visiting the AFN website at www.afn.ca. Summary reports on First Nation engagements have been posted, and background and supporting documents are available. More information will be posted and updated as it becomes available. Check back frequently!