

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 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 on traditional Unceded Algonquin Territory. Final location details will be announced soon.

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

The current plan is for the ceremony gathering to take place on Sunday afternoon. The detailed program, timing and location are still being developed and 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 FMM 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, which they did. 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 attend the First Nations–First Ministers’ Meeting, and how will regional representatives be selected?

AFN Regional Chiefs are working with leadership 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 will be finalized soon and communicated to Chiefs.

Who will be seated in the main meeting room?

Participant lists and seating assignments are still being confirmed. These will be finalized soon with federal and provincial representatives and communicated in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office.

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

AFN is working with Regional Chiefs, federal and provincial officials to finalize event and security details. These will be finalized soon with federal and provincial representatives and communicated in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office.

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. These will be finalized over the coming weeks with federal and provincial representatives and communicated in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office.

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

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

- 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 also 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.