

Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 75/2025

TITLE: Historical Treaty Signing Sites

SUBJECT: Treaty

MOVED BY: Chief Larry Ahenakew, Ahtahkakoop First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Edwin Ananas, Beardy's & Okemasis First Nations, SK

DECISION: Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms:
 - i. Article 26(1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to the lands, territories, and resources they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used or acquired.
 - ii. Article 26(3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned.
 - iii. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
- B. The lands now known as Canada were first inhabited, occupied, and stewarded by First Nations since time immemorial, and these Nations entered into Treaties with the Crown on a nation-to-nation basis grounded in peace, mutual respect, and shared responsibility.
- C. The historical Treaty signing sites for Treaties 1–11 — including Fort Carlton, Fort Pitt, Fort Qu'Appelle, and others — hold deep cultural, spiritual, legal, and historical significance, and remain central to the interpretation, implementation, and defence of Treaty rights across Turtle Island.

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75 – 2025

Page 1 of 2

- D.** Ongoing impacts of colonialism, including forced displacement, land dispossession, and development pressures, have limited First Nations' access to, stewardship of, and jurisdiction over these historic Treaty-signing sites.
- E.** Restoring First Nations governance, ownership, and control over Treaty-signing sites is essential to upholding the spirit and intent of the Treaties and ensuring that these sites are protected, respected, and preserved for future generations.

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

- 1.** Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support First Nations in asserting their Inherent and Treaty rights to full ownership, stewardship, access, and governance over the 18 historical Treaty-signing sites across Canada, consistent with Articles 26 and 27 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- 2.** Call upon the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and relevant municipal authorities to work directly with impacted First Nations to restore jurisdiction, control, and legal recognition of these historic Treaty-signing sites, including any lands or structures situated upon them.
- 3.** Direct the AFN to advocate for federal funding, land-transfer mechanisms, and heritage-protection frameworks that enable First Nations to reclaim, protect, and manage Treaty-signing sites according to their own laws, customs, and governance systems.
- 4.** Support the recognition of First Nations sovereignty in determining how each Treaty-signing site is used, preserved, interpreted, and shared, ensuring that all educational, cultural, tourism, or commemorative activities reflect First Nations authority, protocols, and historical accuracy.

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