

# 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. 37/2025**

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**TITLE:** Development of a National First Nations-led HIV Prevention Strategy

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**SUBJECT:** Health

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Alex (Sonny) Batisse, Matachewan First Nation, ON

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Jennifer Constant, Mattagami First Nation, ON

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**DECISION:** Carried by consensus

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## WHEREAS:

- A. Article 24 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms the right of Indigenous Peoples to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- B. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection rates are increasing at a concerning pace in many First Nations communities, particularly in rural, remote, and northern regions, where health infrastructure and preventative services are significantly lacking.
- C. Proven and effective HIV prevention strategies, such as harm reduction strategies, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), remain largely inaccessible in these communities due to limited prescribers, poor integration into existing health delivery models, lack of awareness, and systemic barriers across jurisdictions.
- D. Community health centers, nursing stations, and public health units serving First Nations are under-resourced and overstretched, lacking the capacity to address the growing need for culturally appropriate HIV education, testing, and treatment.
- E. Stigma surrounding HIV, combined with inadequate public health outreach, continues to impede prevention efforts and reduce uptake of existing services in First Nations communities.

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Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2025, in Ottawa, Ontario

*C. Woodhouse*

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CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge Indigenous Services Canada, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada to immediately increase funding for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention, testing, treatment, and community-led education in First Nations, with a specific focus on remote and rural communities.
2. Direct the AFN to support the development and dissemination of a national, First Nations-led HIV prevention strategy, rooted in cultural safety, which builds on the outstanding work already being done by regional health service providers. A national, First Nations-led HIV prevention strategy would include targeted outreach, stigma reduction campaigns, and enhanced service delivery capacity in high-risk regions.
3. Direct the AFN Secretariat to work with regional health authorities, First Nations organizations, and public health networks to identify gaps and advocate for scalable models of care such as mobile outreach, telemedicine prescribing, and community-based distribution of HIV prevention, treatment, and harm reduction tools.

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*Cindy Woodhouse.*

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**CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF**

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