

Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 11/2025

TITLE:	First Nations Solid Waste Management
SUBJECT:	Health, Infrastructure
MOVED BY:	Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Brent Niganobe, Mississauga First Nation, ON
DECISION	Carried; 1 Opposition; 7 Abstention

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to obtain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
 - Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) Action Plan 2023-2028 states:
- The Government of Canada will take the following actions in consultation and cooperation with First Nations: 6. Support the environmental integrity of reserve lands by addressing and

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preventing the contamination of reserve lands, building effective community-based waste management solutions that include proper disposal of hazardous and plastic waste.

- C. There is a perpetual need to manage solid waste and support First Nations to achieve pristine health and safety for our people and our lands.
- D. The *Indigenous Services Canada Department Plan 2024-25* shows that only 40.5% of First Nations had adequate solid waste management systems in 2022-2023. It also shows the department has a target of 65% of First Nations communities with adequate solid waste management systems by March 2028.
- E. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 26/2021, *Support for Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2023*, directs the AFN to advocate to Canada for adequate funds to support sustained and meaningful engagement regarding closing the infrastructure gap with all First Nations.
- F. First Nations solid waste management is not currently recognized as an essential service.
- G. Funding for capital projects under the First Nation Solid Waste Management Initiative is set to expire in 2028.

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

- 1. Call upon the Government of Canada and the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to:
 - a. Recognize solid waste management as an essential service in First Nation communities;
 - b. Immediately commit to adequate, long-term investments supporting solid waste management programming; and
 - c. Ensure First Nations and Tribal Councils have access to core funding supporting solid waste initiatives.

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