

# 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. 48/2025**

**TITLE:** Honouring the Legacy of Elijah Harper through a Monument and AFN Advocacy

**SUBJECT:** Culture, Heritage, Commemoration

**MOVED BY:** Chief Samuel Knott, Red Sucker Lake Anisininew Nation, MB

**SECONDED BY:** Chief Walter Harper, Wasagamack Anisininew Nation, MB

**DECISION:** Carried by consensus

**WHEREAS:**

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* affirms the right of Indigenous Peoples to maintain, protect, and develop the past, present, and future manifestations of their cultures, including historical sites, monuments, and memorials.
- B. Elijah Harper, of Red Sucker Lake Anisininew Nation, stood with quiet strength and moral clarity during the Meech Lake Accord debates, at a time when the voice of First Nations was too often silenced. His single word, "NO", became a defining affirmation of the sovereignty and dignity of First Nations peoples across this country.
- C. Elijah Harper's leadership transcended politics; it embodied humility, integrity, and service to his people. He demonstrated that even one First Nations leader, guided by the wisdom of his ancestors and the strength of his Nation, could alter the course of Canadian history.
- D. Across Canada, monuments have been raised to colonial figures whose legacies are marked by harm to First Nations peoples. It is both just and fitting that First Nations leaders who embodied courage and integrity, such as Elijah Harper, be publicly honoured with the same permanence and prominence.
- E. A monument to Elijah Harper will not only mark his legacy but will stand as a beacon to future generations reminding them that the voices of First Nations peoples can and must shape the future of this Land.
- F. To bring this vision to life requires a coordinated national effort, with the full weight of the Assembly of First Nations and its regional leadership engaged in advocacy and partnership with governments and philanthropic allies.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2025, in Ottawa, Ontario**

*Cindy Woodhouse*

**CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**48 – 2025**

**Page 1 of 2**

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

1. Call on all levels of government to formally honour the late Elijah Harper by supporting the establishment of a permanent public monument in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to be developed in consultation with the Harper family, proponents, and the appropriate jurisdictions.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, and philanthropic partners to secure dedicated funding for the monument's design, construction, and long-term stewardship.
3. Direct the AFN to work jointly with the Regional Chief for Manitoba to support the Harper family and proponents in advancing this initiative and leading lobbying efforts for funding, ensuring the process reflects humility, respect, and the highest regard for Harper's legacy.
4. Direct the AFN to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly on progress, ensuring that this work is advanced with transparency, accountability, and reverence.

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*Woodhouse*.