



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS  
**Special Chiefs Assembly**

December 5-7, 2023

Shaw Centre – Ottawa, Ontario

*Ottawa is located on the unceded unsurrendered Territory of the Algonquin People.*

ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS  
**Assemblée extraordinaire des Chefs**

Du 5 au 7 décembre 2023 - Centre Shaw - Ottawa ( Ontario)

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## International Decade of Indigenous Languages

### History

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 46/2018, *United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages*, called upon the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) to make a timely declaration of an International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL). AFN Resolution 16/2021, *Support for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-32)*, directs the AFN, Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL), and the Chiefs' Committee on Languages (CCOL) to broadly support activities of the IDIL for the benefit of First Nations languages. AFN Resolution 10/2023, *Support for the First Nations National Action Plan for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-32)*, affirms the First Nations National Action Plan as a foundational step for First Nations languages. In addition, Resolution 10/2023 ensures that activities to reclaim, revitalize, and strengthen languages, including First Nations sign languages, will extend beyond the IDIL. These resolutions provide direction and a mandate on current priorities for the AFN.

### AFN recent advocacy

Over the past year, one of the priorities of the AFN has been working with the TCOL, CCOL, and First Nations on finalizing the First Nations National Action Plan for the IDIL. Over the past decade, the AFN has held many engagement sessions on the development of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, the interim First Nations Languages Funding Model, and the creation of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages. Many First Nations have stated there has been enough engagement, and it is time to act..

The AFN developed the First Nations National Action Plan based on what was heard at past engagement sessions. The draft First Nations National Action Plan was brought to the 2022 AFN Languages Forum *New Horizons: Celebrating First Nations Languages* in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The AFN, TCOL, CCOL and First Nations from across Canada reviewed the draft First Nations National Action Plan and provided their final input. The First Nations National Action Plan was ratified at the April 2023 Special Chiefs Assembly.

Budget advocacy is another priority, and additional funding is required to ensure First Nations across Canada can initiate and participate in IDIL activities. In the 2024 Pre-Budget Submission, the AFN requested \$106.6 million over the next five years for IDIL funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The IDIL funding will support language revitalization activities related to the IDIL.

### Next Steps

The AFN will continue to advocate for additional IDIL funding to support community-based language revitalization activities. To further advance this work, the AFN will develop an implementation plan for the First Nations National Action Plan and work with First Nations across Canada to implement IDIL initiatives in their communities.



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The AFN will continue to promote the importance of revitalizing First Nations languages in Canada and internationally. The AFN is working with the TCOL and CCOL to nominate a First Nations language revitalization champion to represent the AFN on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages. The Global Task Force ensures equitable participation of all stakeholders in the IDIL and provides guidance on the preparation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities in line with the Global Action Plan for the IDIL.