



AFN National Justice Forum: Revitalization of First Nations Laws and Legal Orders

Hybrid | April 2-3, 2025 | 9:00am – 5:00pm PT

REQUEST FOR SPEAKERS

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to announce the request for speakers for the AFN's National Justice Forum on Revitalization of First Nations Laws and Legal Orders.

In January 2021, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada was mandated to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) to address systemic discrimination and overrepresentation of Indigenous people across the justice system. The IJS would be informed by Indigenous-led engagement undertaken by communities and organizations as well as Justice Canada-led engagement to develop a culturally appropriate strategy including concrete recommendations for action.

In February 2024, the AFN released *Assembly of First Nations Recommendations for a First Nations Justice Strategy* (Recommendations Paper) informed by various sources and forums since 2020, including the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, AFN National Forums on policing and justice, AFN Virtual Justice Speaker Series, the 2023 *Ten Years Since Spirit Matters* report, and IJS engagement. This Recommendations Paper includes two main parts: (1) Reform of the criminal justice system (CJS), and (2) revitalization of First Nations traditional laws.

Part 2 of the Recommendations Report, the revitalization of First Nations traditional laws, was divided into four distinct sections (revitalization of First Nations traditional laws, creation of First Nations traditional laws, administration of justice, and enforcement of Indigenous Laws in First Nations communities) and included five considerations focused on the distinction and importance of First Nations traditional laws to community, language, and culture, and four recommendations which emphasized the needs that come along with restoring, implementing, and enforcing First Nations traditional laws, legal traditions, structures, and systems.

The primary objective of this event is to provide First Nations an opportunity to discuss the revitalization of First Nations laws and legal orders that will inform the implementation of the First Nations component of the Indigenous Justice Strategy. The Forum will provide a space for First Nations throughout Canada to share knowledge and advance efforts to revitalize First Nations justice processes, laws, and legal systems.

The AFN is inviting dynamic speakers to submit a proposal to speak as a keynote speaker, panelist, or provide a presentation.

The deadline to submit an application is **Friday, February 28, 2025**.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Please submit your application to: sbean@afn.ca

For inquiries, please contact:

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