



Assembly of First Nations (AFN)
2026 Economic and Infrastructure Summit
Strategies for Closing the Socioeconomic, Housing and Infrastructure Gaps for First Nations



Le Westin Montréal • Montréal, Quebec • March 2-3, 2026

AGENDA

Day 1 – March 2, 2026	
Time	Activity
8:00am	Breakfast, Registration Opens
8:20am	Log-in to Virtual Session
8:35am	Opening Prayer and Territorial Welcome: Mohawks of Kahnawà:ke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elder Kanahsohon Deer
8:50am	Co-Facilitator Introductions and Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shannin Metatawabin, CEO – National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association • Cedric Gray-Lehoux
AFN Welcoming Remarks	
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Chief Francis Verreault-Paul, Quebec
9:10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Lance Haymond, Co-Chair for the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, on behalf of Housing & Infrastructure Portfolio Holder Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, Newfoundland
9:20am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Chief Willie Moore, Manitoba
Host Nation Address	
9:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Ryan Montour – Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke
Plenary – Finance	
9:50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ogimaa Ominika – Wiikwemkoong First Nation
10:20am	Wellness Break
10:40am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristan Straub, President & CEO – Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation
11:05am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Derek Epp – First Nations Tax Commission



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Time	Activity
11:25am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Christoff, General Counsel and Director of Strategic Opportunities – First Nations Financial Management Board
11:40am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jody Anderson, VP of Partnerships, Strategy and Public Affairs – First Nations Finance Authority
Lunch Break & Keynote	
12:00pm	Lunch
12:20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote: Chief Darcy Bear – Whitecap Dakota Nation
Plenary – Major Projects	
1:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Van Wallegghem, VP of Indigenous Relations and Council – Major Projects Office Candace Anderson, Director of Indigenous Relations – Major Projects Office
2:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracy Sletto, CEO – Canada Energy Regulator
2:20pm	Wellness Break, Tradeshow & Networking
2:45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim Laronde, Senior Advisor, Project Development – First Nations Major Projects Coalition
Plenary – Housing	
3:05pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Lance Haymond, General Manager – Yänonhchia' Housing Finance
3:25pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nadine Leblanc, SVP Policy and Housing Programs – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
3:45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travis Seymour, CEO – First Nations Market Housing Fund
4:05pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Lamirande, Senior Vice President, Policy and Operations for Housing - Build Canada Homes
4:30pm	Facilitator Closing Comments
Networking Reception (Dinner)	
6:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak and Guests <p style="color: red;">Entertainment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sebastian Gaskin <p style="color: red;">The Role for Family Offices in Long-Term Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bobby Ahluwalia, Managing Partner & CIO – Coeuraj Capital Elaine Alec, Practice Partner – Coeuraj Capital



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Day 2 – March 3, 2026	
Time	Activity
8:00am	Breakfast
8:30am	Co-Facilitator Day 2 Welcome and Housekeeping
8:40am	Day 2 Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
Plenary Panel Discussion – Partnerships in Finance	
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Lomax, President & CEO – First Nations Bank of Canada Isabelle Hudon, President & CEO – Business Development Bank of Canada Ehren Cory, CEO – Canada Infrastructure Bank
Plenary – Economic Development and Trade	
9:45am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Jenny Brake – Qalipu First Nation Doug Chiasson, Executive Director - Fur Institute
10:15am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Chief Kyra Wilson – Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Chief Roger Redman – Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation
10:45am	Wellness Break
Plenary Panel Session – Rights, Title & Impact Assessment	
11:00am	Introductions: Moderator & Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessee McCormick (moderator) - Pape Salter Teillet LLP
11:15am	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron Bruce – Aaron Bruce Law Melody Lepine, Business Lead for Indigenous-led Assessment –Firelight Anna Johnston - Staff Lawyer – West Coast Environmental Law
Lunch Break & Presentations	
12:30pm	Lunch



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Time	Activity
12:45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carol Anne Hilton, Founder & CEO of The Indigenomics Institute
1:05pm	<p>Update – Closing the Infrastructure Gap in First Nations (CTIG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shane Thompson, Partner, Resilience & Sustainability – Ernst & Young LLP Matthew George, Senior Policy Analyst – Assembly of First Nations
Plenary – Connectivity, Partnerships and Economic Reconciliation	
1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marissa Nobauer, Head of TELUS’ Co-Fund strategy – TELUS Andrew Robinson, CEO – Nisga’a Lisims Government
2:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curtis Shaw, President – Northwestel (Bell)
2:20pm	Wellness Break, Tradeshow & Networking
2:45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick Aubin, Vice-President, Market Leader, Infrastructure – Eastern Canada – AtkinsRéalis
3:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theo Argitis, Senior Vice President, Policy – Business Council of Canada
Closing Plenary Session – Keynote Address and Looking Ahead	
3:20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote (Virtual): Dawn Mahdahbee-Leach, General Manager – Waubetek Business Development Corporation Facilitator Event Summary and Looking Ahead: Shannin Metatawabin, CEO – National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association
4:15pm	Closing Prayer