

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. 08/2025

TITLE:	Advancing Nation-to-Nation Trade
SUBJECT:	Economic Development, Trade
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:

- i. Article 20(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
- ii. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
- iii. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- iv. Article 36(1): Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.
- v. Article 36(2): States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

B. First Nations have engaged in trade across Turtle Island since time immemorial. Trade is fundamental to First Nations history, identity, values, culture, ancestry, and economic wellbeing.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of September, 2025 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Cindy Woodhouse

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- C. First Nations hold an Inherent right to self-determination, including determining policies, regulations, and legislations that dictate their participation and engagement on inter-nation and internal trade.
- D. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 70/2023, *Support for Treaty and Inherent Rights to Tax and Tariff Exemption* provides that First Nations have Treaty and Inherent rights to exemption from all government-imposed taxes and tariffs.
- E. First Nations right to mobility of goods and person are affirmed and recognized under the UN Declaration.
- F. First Nations have long advocated for the recognition of the Inherent right to trade and the re-establishment of nation-to-nation trade.
- G. On June 26, 2025, federal Bill C-5, the *One Canadian Economy: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act*, received Royal Assent. This legislation purports to improve interprovincial labour and trade mobility.

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

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to develop and implement a nation-to-nation export trail to support trade between and amongst First Nations from coast-to-coast-to-coast.
- 2. Call on the Government of Canada to ensure that the implementation of *the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act* upholds First Nations Inherent right to trade.
- 3. Direct the AFN to work with the Government of Canada to identify and secure resources to advance this work.

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