



# Assembly of First Nations ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 11-13, 2023 • Halifax Convention Centre  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Halifax (Kijipuktuk) is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People



## THE COUNCIL FLYER

### NEWS & VIEWS FROM AFN COUNCILS: HIGHLIGHTING INDIVIDUALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



#### Veterans Council

In April 2023, Veteran Percy Joe signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defense, Honourable Lawrence MacAulay. The look ahead for the Veterans Council is optimistic, with many opportunities to collaborate with VAC. The Veterans Council anticipates a lot of movement around priorities, such as:

- ✓ Maintaining outreach programs for First Nations Veterans and their families
- ✓ Establishing clear points of contact for First Nations Veterans
- ✓ Ensuring culturally appropriate representation in commemoration ceremonies
- ✓ Prioritizing and improving historical record keeping

These initiatives are part of the mandate outlined in Resolution 02/2020 AFN *First Nations Veterans Council*.

#### AFN Veterans Council members

- Chair, Percy Joe, British Columbia
- Eldon Bernard, New Brunswick
- Emile Highway, Saskatchewan
- Chuck Hume, Yukon
- Wendy Jocko, Ontario
- Alan Knockwood, Nova Scotia
- Lawrence Letandre, Manitoba
- Gerald McGregor, Ontario
- Tim O'Loan, Northwest Territories
- Henry Raine, Alberta
- Terry Richardson, New Brunswick

Regional Chief Gerald Antoine works with the Veterans Council, providing leadership and guidance from his experience as Dene National Chief. Previously, Regional Chief Antoine was Chief of the Łíídlıı Kúę First Nation and the Dehcho Grand Chief. Regional Chief Antoine is a proud Dene language speaker and is passionate about Dene Inherent rights.





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### Knowledge Keepers Council

The AFN Knowledge Keepers Council has a monumental task related to educating, sharing and teaching. Council members are called upon to assist with meetings, ensure culturally relevant resources are maintained and readily available and continuously guide those working on Resolutions and Policies. The Knowledge Keepers support AFN's work on priority items such as the UN Declaration, Reconciliation, Land Rights, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People (MMIWG2S), Healthcare, Education, Environment, and many more priorities that impact us all. The AFN leadership has always been able to rely upon the historical, spiritual, and cultural knowledge of the Council and its representatives.

### Knowledge Keepers Council members

- Co-Chair, Chuck Hume, Yukon
- Co-Chair, Gwen Point, British Columbia
- Barney Batise, Ontario
- John Bekale, Northwest Territories
- Eldon Bernard, New Brunswick
- Grace Blake, Northwest Territories
- Ma-Nee Chacaby, Ontario
- Lawrence Courtoreille, Alberta
- Ernie Daniels, Manitoba
- Teri Fiddler, Ontario
- Mary Jane Jim, Yukon
- Joe Quewezance, Saskatchewan
- Ivy Raine, Alberta
- Bill Sunday, Quebec

The AFN and all Council members are saddened to announce the passing of:



*Veteran and Former Chief  
James Eagle,  
Tootinaowaziibeeng  
First Nation, Manitoba*



*Elder  
Phyllis Googoo,  
We'Koqma'q First Nation,  
Nova Scotia*

Their contributions have brought us to where we are today, and we will honour them by continuing their outstanding and meaningful work.

### New Council members:

Lawrence Letandre has recently joined the First Nations Veterans Council. We look forward to having his experiences and knowledge guide us as we continue our work for First Nations Veterans.

***On behalf of the Veterans and Knowledge Keepers councils, we would like to wish good luck to all the athletes competing at the North American Indigenous Games. Talented athletes will compete in 16 sports on traditional Mi'kmaq territory.***

***Good luck to all!***

It has been our pleasure to continue to work with and coordinate the efforts of the AFN Knowledge Keepers and First Nations Veterans councils. The recent Letter of Understanding signing on April 13 was the culmination of two years' work. We will now begin to ensure Veterans issues are addressed. The team effort and the opportunity to align the work of the two councils was essential to the projects moving forward. We'd like to thank the team for their efforts as we keep our priorities in line with AFN resolutions.

Larry Whiteduck  
Manager of the Knowledge Keepers  
and First Nations Veterans Councils

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