

Assembly of First Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 47/2025

TITLE: **Federal Support for First Nations-led Off-Reserve Data Collection through the First Nations Information Governance Centre and its Regional Partners**

SUBJECT: Data Governance, Health, Education, Treaty Rights,

MOVED BY: Chief Calvin Bruneau, Papaschase First Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Marcel Donio, Proxy, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point), ON

DECISION: Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in decision-making on matters that affect them (Article 18); the right to the improvement of their economic, social and health conditions (Article 21); the right to determine their own priorities for development (Article 23); the right to be consulted and to give free, prior and informed consent before activities affecting their lands and resources (Article 32(2)); and, the right to maintain and develop their own institutional structures, systems, and practices (Article 34).
- B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) Action Plan (2023) commits Canada to concrete measures for advancing reconciliation and implementing the rights affirmed in the UN Declaration—including those aimed at addressing injustices, prejudices, violence, systemic racism and discrimination, upholding self-determination and self-government, recognizing and implementing Treaties, and realizing the economic, health, and social rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- C. Measure 30 of the UNDA Action Plan commits Canada to support First Nations-led survey and data collection strategies that directly contribute to the implementation of the UN Declaration—by strengthening the ability of First Nations to collect, govern, and use their own data in accordance with their laws, priorities, and worldviews.
- D. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, through Calls to Action #18 and #19, urges governments to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties, and to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

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Cindy Woodhouse

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- E. The First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) was incorporated in 2010 following the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 48/2009, *First Nations Information Governance Stand Alone Centre*, to promote, protect, and advance the First Nations Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®) principles, and the Inherent right to self-determination and jurisdiction in research and information management.
- F. The FNIGC envisions that every First Nation will achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct world view. First Nations need accurate reliable culturally relevant data on all First Nations persons in all regions, regardless of residence.
- G. The FNIGC has successfully supported First Nations in the development, design, and collection of national surveys that are culturally relevant and reflective of the needs and priorities of First Nations persons living on-reserve including the First Nations Regional Health Survey, the First Nations Labour and Economic Development Survey, the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey, and is currently developing the First Nations Regional Social Survey.
- H. The Indigenous Peoples Survey (IPS) is national survey delivered by Statistics Canada for Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) on the social and economic conditions of families and children of First Nations persons living off-reserve, Métis and Inuit, aged one year and older.
- I. ISC has paused funding for the development of the 2027 IPS.

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

1. Call on Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to use the pause in funding to the Indigenous Peoples Survey (IPS) to remove First Nations data collection from the IPS.
2. Call on ISC to direct adequate resources to the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) to work with its regional partners to expand its current data collection initiatives to include First Nations persons living off-reserve to address an impending critical gap on the First Nations data landscape.
3. Direct the FNIGC to act as stewards of the regional data from all past iterations of the IPS as well as the new First Nations-led data collection efforts that will replace the First Nations component of the IPS and, where appropriate, to repatriate all past community-specific IPS data to each respective First Nation in Canada through FNIGC's partners.
4. Direct Statistics Canada and ISC to work with the FNIGC to support the new approach to data collection that would replace the First Nations component of the post-Census IPS until the First Nations-led approach to enumeration has been realized.
5. Call on the Government of Canada to provide sufficient, sustainable funding for the full implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy, prioritizing the establishment of a national network of fully functional Regional Information Governance Centres, along with a fully functional National Centre to coordinate the network at the national level, enabling all First Nations to govern and use their own data and information locally, regionally, and nationally with the necessary capacities to facilitate First Nation-led enumeration and other long-term First Nations data priorities.

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