



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 63/2024

TITLE: Call for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths

SUBJECT: Justice; Policing

MOVED BY: Chief Allan Polchies Jr., St. Mary's First Nation, NB

SECONDED BY: Chief Jerry Jack, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, BC

DECISION Carried; 2 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law.
 - ii. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
 - iii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B. The historic relationship between First Nations peoples and Canada's law enforcement agencies is rooted in conflict, with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) established in the 19th century as a paramilitary police organization responsible for facilitating the removal and dispossession of First Nations people from their lands, territories and resources, and to enforce *Indian Act* policies.
- C. Through the course of the 20th century, the RCMP's enforcement of the *Indian Act* included *inter alia* (e.g. the illegal pass system when First Nations people wished to leave their reserves), the ban on First Nations ceremonies, and the mandatory attendance of First Nations children in Canada's Indian Residential School system.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

63 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- D. Systematic racism has plagued all levels of non-First Nations policing agencies in Canada into the 21st century, as evidenced through the Senate Report on *Systematic Racism in Policing in Canada* (2021), which states, “given the pervasive nature of systemic racism in policing in Canada, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (the Committee) has concluded that a transformative national effort is required to ensure that all Indigenous, Black and other racialized people in Canada are not subject to the discrimination and injustice that is inherent in the system as it exists today.”
- E. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls final report *Reclaiming Power and Place* (2019) highlights the pervasive discriminatory treatment by non-First Nations police services when a First Nations woman experiences violence or is reported missing and included eleven recommendations specific for police reform within the *231 Calls for Justice*.
- F. Despite over 20 individual inquiries and commissions into the police and justice system since 1989, the Government of Canada fails to make substantive changes to address systematic racism in the RCMP and other agencies within Canada.
- G. From 2017-2020, twenty-five (25) First Nations people lost their lives after interactions with the RCMP, provincial or municipal police. From August-November 2024, 10 First Nations people died as a result of interactions with either the RCMP, provincial or municipal police, including: Jack Piché (31-years old), Hoss Lightening Saddleback (15-years old), Tammy Bateman (39-years old), Jason West (57-years old), Daniel Knife (31-years old), Steve Dedam (34-years old), Ronald Skunk (59-years old), Jon Wells (42-years old), Joseph Desjarlais (34-years old), and Elgyn Muskego (17-years old).
- H. Investigations into the recent deaths of First Nations people after interacting with police are being conducted in isolation of each other, which is hindering the understanding that they inter-related cases in an ongoing national epidemic. Furthermore, oftentimes the individual conducting an investigation is a current or former police officer. This frequently leads to investigator bias, whether the investigator recognizes it or not, that leads them to side with the officers and maintain a cultural attitude that toes the blue line.

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

1. Call on the Government of Canada to convene a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing, whose mandate would include investigation of police related deaths of First Nations peoples, serious injury and allegations of sexual assault, and other serious incidents between police and First Nations peoples, with the objective to make concrete and specific recommendations to end discrimination and racism in policing.
2. Call on the Government of Canada to ensure that the National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing includes a First Nations Chief Commissioner and Commissioner(s) to ensure First Nations perspectives guide the work of the inquiry and that the approach is culturally sensitive, trauma-informed, and respectful of First Nations.
3. Call on the Government of Canada to immediately establish, with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), a National Task Force to end police-related deaths and other serious incidents between police and First Nations.
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and call for implementation of police reform measures, including:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

- a. Data collection consistent with Indigenous data sovereignty principles that will inform policies to address systemic racism;
 - b. Demilitarization of police forces and a cap on tactical deployments and use of lethal force;
 - c. Implementation of independent First Nations' oversight, access, and accountability over data recorded by body-worn cameras;
 - d. Establishment of a national Crisis Intervention Team across Canada to provide a specialized response to people in crisis 24-hours per day;
 - e. Immediately after a serious incident has occurred involving a First Nations person, that the incident investigation includes a First Nations person who has been trained to assist in the investigation.
 - f. Requirements for Federal, Provincial/Territorial, and municipal police forces to institute operational policy that requires an independent First Nations police investigator to assist with cases involving the deaths of First Nations people by police.
 - g. That the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provincial police, municipal police, Marshals, conservation officers, sheriffs, and peace officers immediately implement the remaining five of the *8 Can't Wait* policies, which are:
 - i. Mandatory de-escalation and harm reduction technique training for officers;
 - ii. A ban on the use of choke holds and extreme restraint techniques, including "knee on neck" restraint;
 - iii. A ban on shooting at vehicles;
 - iv. Requirements for police officers to give verbal warnings; and
 - v. Requirements for a "use of force continuum," requiring that the use of force match the circumstance.
5. Direct the AFN to advocate that the National Inquiry into Systematic Racism in Policing be provided a clear mandate to provide tangible recommendations that will be immediately implemented by the federal, provincial and territorial governments in collaboration with First Nations.
6. Direct the AFN to seek funding and convene a National Forum on Systemic Racism in Policing to highlight First Nations experiences as they relate to racism and the police and to identify future actions and immediate next steps.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 64/2024

TITLE: First Nations Labour Market Information

SUBJECT: Economic Development

MOVED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Allan Polchies Jr., Saint Mary's First Nation, NB

DECISION Carried; 4 opposed; 6 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
- B.** In 2018, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) began to fund the pilot project for the Indigenous Labour Market Information (ILMI) and Skills Inventory initiative, to test processes and tools to improve the level of detail and timeliness of labour supply information for First Nations Communities which includes information on all First Nations Citizens 15 years of age and older regardless of residence.
- C.** Today the ILMI initiative supports limited participation of the First Nations Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) agreement holders to collect information which assists in identifying workforce gaps and needs, and to better match their members with the right training and jobs.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

64 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- D. The First Nations ISET agreement holders have identified the need for long-term funding for the ILMI initiative as it has proven to be a vital tool for understanding and addressing First Nations data gaps, economic trends, analysis, and labour force statistics. The ILMI initiative is limited in funding for ISET agreement holders to provide accurate up to date First Nations labour market information to ESDC. This creates barriers for long-term strategic labour market planning, human resource strategies, and identifying and addressing needs including additional capacity and infrastructure requirements.
- E. Budget 2024 committed \$4.4 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to continue the ILMI initiative to support labour market participation and ensure prosperous communities. This short-term investment does not provide an opportunity for this initiative to effectively continue and expand to each of the First Nations ISET agreement holders in Canada.

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

- 1. Call on Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to provide long-term transfer agreement funding for the Indigenous Labour Market Information (ILMI) Survey and Skills Inventory initiative making it a permanent component by April 1, 2026, for First Nations Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) agreement holders.
- 2. Call on ESDC to work with the First Nations ISET agreement holders, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development and the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development to work towards the goal long term transfer funding to First Nations ISET agreement holders.
- 3. Direct the AFN to support the establishment of a technical working group comprising First Nations ISET agreement holders to:
 - a. Develop a First Nations labour market information initiative business case to assist in the advocacy for establishing the ILMI initiative as a permanent component with the ISET agreement holders and its delivery.
 - b. Work with ESDC in addressing data collection shortfalls, and the rising costs associated with providing related delivery capacity.
- 4. Direct the AFN to assign a dedicated staff lead, subject to appropriate and available resources on the ILMI Survey and Skill Inventory file to ensure regular updates towards the desired goal of permanent transfer funding being provided to First Nations ISET agreement holders.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 65/2024

TITLE: First Nations Economic Reconciliation Framework

SUBJECT: Economic Development

MOVED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Allan Polchies Jr., Saint Mary's First Nation, NB

DECISION Carried; 4 opposed; 6 abstentions

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 32 (1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories or other resources.
- B.** Action Plan Measure 74 from the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan commits Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and various departments to advance economic reconciliation through engagement on key aspects for Indigenous economic development such as initiating discussions on an Indigenous-led investment and financial asset management regime and addressing persistent economic barriers for Indigenous businesses and communities, including the impacts of colonization and inequitable policies.
- C.** ISC has committed to working with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Métis National Council (MNC), and a group of First Nations economic institutions and organizations to develop an Economic Reconciliation Framework (the Framework) that identifies economic priorities for Indigenous rights holders.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

- D. A series of roundtable discussions was held in 2023 and 2024 with ITK, MNC, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and First Nations economic development organizations to identify key economic development priorities and identify possible elements to be included in the Framework.
- E. On November 2023, the AFN met with ISC officials and was informed that the AFN was not identified as a primary Indigenous Policy Lead in the Framework, meaning that the AFN would not be engaged in the co-development process but could opt to participate as observers.
- F. As a result, the ITK, MNC and technical First Nations economic development organizations, who are not accountable to first Nations rights-holders, would represent First Nations in the Framework's development.
- G. Budget 2023 earmarked \$5 million to co-develop an Economic Reconciliation Framework that will serve as the Government of Canada's public commitment to advancing economic reconciliation. To date, First Nations and the AFN have not received dedicated funding to support the development of this Framework.
- H. ISC intends to release an Economic Reconciliation Policy Statement and principles to guide the Government of Canada's efforts on economic reconciliation, followed by the creation of distinctions-based strategies.
- I. ISC plans to receive policy proposals on First Nations economic development initiatives that will advance framework priorities.
- J. First Nations and the AFN have identified several critical elements to economic reconciliation, such as through AFN Resolution 72/2023, *First Nations-Led Procurement Organization and the National Benefits-Sharing Framework* which mandates the development of a new First Nations-led procurement organization to provide wrap-around procurement services to increase First Nations businesses' success in securing procurement opportunities no matter where they reside, and to develop and implement a First Nations-specific chapter to Canada's National Benefits Sharing Framework to advance meaningful participation and revenue sharing.
- K. Economic reconciliation will not be achieved without significant joint policy and legislative change to support an inclusive economy which recognizes First Nations' rights to use the resources on their traditional territories to benefit to future generations of First Nation children and families. This includes:
 - i. The Return of Lands: the resolution of land claims, the ratification of revenue sharing agreements, return of federal Crown lands, implementation of Treaty Land Entitlement, acceleration of additions to reserve, recognition of First Nations title to unceded lands, and development of a land management regime.
 - ii. Access to Capital: capital provides expanded options for government finance on fair and affordable terms, allows businesses to start, and supports business growth over time. This includes addressing current legal and regulatory barriers to accessing capital, as well as exploring and supporting new and alternative lending options, including rate subsidies and loan guarantees.
 - iii. Governance Capacity Supports: fiscal and institutional supports for First Nations governments including sufficient funding (both transfers from other levels of governments as well as other revenue sources derived from economic activity and benefit) in addition to flexible funding arrangements.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

- iv. Labour and Employment Supports: First Nations economies benefit from their capacity to access the job market and employment prospects. A First Nations labour market and employment model would address current disadvantages and provide possibilities while supporting Canada's commitment to eliminate systematic obstacles in this sector.

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

1. Call on Canada to ensure that the development of an Indigenous Economic Reconciliation Framework prioritizes the unique needs, aspirations and priorities of First Nations rights holders and aligns with First Nations inherent and Treaty rights, title and jurisdiction related to their lands, economies, and citizens.
2. Call on Canada to ensure that an Economic Reconciliation Framework commits to concrete actions to enable First Nations and their economies to thrive, reflective of the need for First Nations access to lands, waters, capital, as well as social, governance, and institutional supports.
3. Call on Canada, provinces, and territories to recognize First Nations as equal partners in discussions and decision-making on legislative measures, policy reform and renewal, with meaningful authority over policy outcomes and remove systemic barriers that impact their economies.
4. Call on Canada to provide necessary resources to First Nations to support the development and implementation of an Economic Reconciliation Framework that reflects First Nations' inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction.
5. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge First Nations economic development organizations and institutions to provide robust technical support to First Nations rights holders in the identification and creation of economic reconciliation priorities and initiatives and to support the primary role of First Nations rights holders in this work, and to advocate that the AFN be included as a primary Indigenous Policy Lead in the Economic Policy Framework.
6. Direct the AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development to provide recommendations and guidance to the AFN to support this work.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

65 – 2024
Page 3 of 3



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 66/2024

TITLE:	Recognize The First Mile Connectivity Consortium as a Network of Professionals for the Support of First Nations Telecommunications
SUBJECT:	Infrastructure; Connectivity
MOVED BY:	Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Allan Polchies Jr., Saint Mary's First Nation, NB
DECISION	Carried; 4 opposed; 6 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 14 (2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
 - iii. Article 14 (3): States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

- B.** First Nations owned and operated network infrastructures and services provide a critical opportunity to address and resolve ongoing disparities in access to high-speed internet services among First Nations.
- C.** According to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) report, *Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030*, and data compiled by Planetworks Consulting, First Nations continue to face a national connectivity gap with only 38% of First Nations attaining Canada's Basic Service Objective of 50 megabits per second download and 10 megabits per second upload speed (50/10 Mbps).
- D.** In the *Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030: Prioritization and Implementation Plan* report, Planetworks Consulting highlighted differing connectivity levels compared to publicly available data due to situations of First Nations being reported as meeting the 50/10 Mbps speeds, but their actual service was sub-50/10 Mbps.
- E.** The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) Communications Market Reports identify 50.1% of First Nations reserve areas as having coverage. High-speed, affordable and reliable broadband services are critical to the economic, social, education, health, and cultural development of First Nations across Canada.
- F.** Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 19/2020, *Supporting First Nations with connecting to the Internet* calls on Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) to support and work with First Nations to improve service-provider capacities, data and market information, spectrum access, and establish a network of professionals and policy to enable affordable access to the internet.
- G.** The First Mile Connectivity Consortium (FMCC) is an incorporated independent not-for-profit national association of First Nations internet service providers known as "community/regional intermediary organizations." FMCC is an advocacy group with open membership dedicated to improving and sustaining high-quality broadband services in First Nations communities and territories. FMCC is the only consortium in Canada with members representing a wide range of First Nations organizations that contribute to the development of policy through consultation, participation, and research.

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

- 1.** Call upon the Government of Canada to meet its commitment to connecting all Canadians to high-speed internet by 2030, with a priority on underserved First Nations communities by connecting 100% of users on First Nations communities. This includes supporting First Nations access to electromagnetic spectrum including the release of Remote Rural Broadband System unused portions of the spectrum, and cellular service, and the development and ongoing operations of First Nation owned and operated telecommunications infrastructure and services.
- 2.** Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to recognize telecommunications as a priority and access to digital services as a right, and to include a separate budget and development plan specific to First Nations telecommunications in its pre-budget consultation briefs.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

3. Recognize the First Mile Connectivity Consortium (FMCC) as a network of professionals that supports First Nations in the development of First Nations internet service providers and supports the ability of First Nations to build and operate their own telecommunication and connectivity infrastructure and services.
4. Direct the AFN to explore collaboration with the FMCC to bring the voices and experiences of First Nations to inform telecommunications policy on a range of issues, including ongoing support for First Nations owned and operated telecommunications infrastructure and services, extending 911 services, improving network resiliency and reliability, providing roaming agreements, and accessing the spectrum, including through spectrum licensing processes.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 67/2024

TITLE: Right to the Improvement of Housing, a Social Condition

SUBJECT: Children and Families

MOVED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Allan Polchies Jr., Saint Mary's First Nation, NB

DECISION Carried; 4 opposed; 6 abstentions

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law.
- ii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Article 22(1): Special attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
- v. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, particularly in housing, health, and economic and social programs.

B. First Nations have human, Treaty and Inherent rights to live with dignity and integrity in safe, adequate, and culturally appropriate housing, including on reserve lands.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

67 – 2024

Page 1 of 3

- C. First Nations face such extreme housing inequities that many are unhoused on the very territories their ancestors have occupied and cared for since time immemorial, a direct result of chronic underfunding and systemic colonial policies.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) comprehensive costing report entitled *Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030*, that was co-developed with Indigenous Services Canada and industry-leading engineering and consulting firms, identified a need for \$15.778 billion in federal investment for capital costs to address housing infrastructure for First Nations in Manitoba for the period of 2023-2030, in addition to \$1.715 billion in operations and maintenance funding for new housing.
- E. Since 2022, the federal government has announced approximately \$3.48 billion for housing for all First Nations on reserves across Canada to be spread over several years. Those investments contrast with the \$135.1 billion requested to match the cost estimate to close the housing gap across hundreds of First Nations by 2030. First Nations in Manitoba, like those in all regions, are receiving housing funds that meet less than 15% of their housing needs on-reserves. The current funding processes for on-reserve housing are neither adequate nor equitable, with competitive application processes burdened by unnecessary administrative hurdles, instead of providing direct and sufficient funding to First Nations to meet their housing needs.
- F. The pan-Indigenous housing model for urban, rural, and northern areas does not adequately address the unique and urgent needs of on-reserve First Nations. It fails to account for the rapid population growth rate for First Nations, particularly in Manitoba, where the growth rate surpasses the national average for First Nations in Canada.
- G. Overcrowded housing leads to serious health issues such as the spread of infectious diseases and increased mental health problems, as first outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1978, and most recently in the *WHO Housing and Health Guidelines* (2018).
- H. The First Nations-in-Assembly have been calling for action to address the twin housing and infectious disease crises in First Nations for decades.
- I. The ongoing overcrowding crisis results in higher First Nations expenditures in health and mental health services, resources which could be better utilized if the overcrowding issue is alleviated.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the federal government to close the First Nations infrastructure gap and invest \$14.493 billion for on-reserve housing for Manitoba First Nations.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to collaborate directly with the Manitoba First Nations and to support them with sufficient funding to develop and implement region-specific First Nations housing solutions.
3. Direct the AFN to reaffirm the Manitoba First Nations' portion and all other regional portions of the \$135.1 billion investment required to address the housing gap in all First Nations in Canada, as first outlined in AFN Resolution 59/2022, *Transformative Federal Investment Needed in First Nations Housing*, and as per the *Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030* comprehensive costing report including:
 - a \$12.6 billion for education;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

- b** \$35.5 billion for yearly road access;
 - c** \$12.7 billion for net zero;
 - d** \$1.6 billion for accessibility;
 - e** \$59.5 billion for infrastructure;
 - f** \$55.4 billion for First Nations Direct Asks;
 - g** \$5.2 billion for digital connectivity;
 - h** \$0.7 billion for critical drinking water advisories; and
 - i** \$30.9 billion for climate adaptation.
- 4.** Call on the federal government to consider, as it contemplates what to fund through Budget 2025 and beyond, the cross-sectoral impacts such as improved physical and mental health, and the corresponding cost avoidance elsewhere, that result from access to safe and affordable housing and infrastructure for First Nations on reserve.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 68/2024

TITLE:	Call for Prioritization of Collaboration on the Second-Generation Cut-Off Rule
SUBJECT:	Citizenship
MOVED BY:	Chief Heidi Cook, Mispawistik Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, MB
DECISION	Carried; 8 opposed; 12 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
 - ii. Article 33 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
 - iii. Article 33 (2): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.
- B.** Under pre-1975 Treaties, the Treaty Annuity Pay Lists, or “Treaty Paylists”, documented First Nations Band membership and tracked annuity payments as part of Canada’s Treaty obligations. These lists recorded the names of Band members eligible for Treaty payments, providing essential documentation for Canada’s Treaty commitments.
- C.** In 1951, amendments to the *Indian Act* introduced the Indian Register, a centralized registry overseen by a federal Registrar, replacing the Treaty Paylists as the primary tool for documenting Band membership. The Indian Register became the official record for identifying “Status Indians” in Canada, centralizing control over status designations and Band membership within the federal government, which formalized Canada’s regulatory role of First Nations’ identity.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

68 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- D. In 1985, Bill C-31 amended Indian Act rules on Indian registration, introducing two new classes of Indian Status: 6(1) and 6(2). While the Bill granted bands the right to develop their own membership rules, the federal government retained control of who gained or lost status. After two consecutive generations of parents who do not have Indian status, the third generation is no longer entitled to registration. The federal government still controls the decision of registration of Status.
- E. Federal funding to First Nations covers only programs and services for individuals registered with Indian Act status, creating a financial gap for First Nations citizens and membership outside the Indian Register.
- F. There must be changes made to the Indian Act to clarify that women and their descendants whose status has been restored, corrected, or improved by changes to the *Indian Act* are entitled to band membership, including in section 10 bands.
- G. There is a need to address Canada's laws and policies on First Nations citizenship, in part due to Second Generation Cut-off rule, which prevents First Nations people from passing *Indian Act* status to their children.
- H. The Second-Generation Cut-Off Rule has significant implications for First Nations' identity and membership, with members of First Nations negatively affected. This Rule has led to an increasing number of First Nations children unable to receive Indian Act status.
- I. In 2019, the Minister's Special Representative (MSR) for the Collaborative Process on Indian Registration, Band Membership and First Nation Citizenship, reported that the most pressing inequity highlighted during the collaborative process was the second-generation cut-off rule. It was reported that the issue will affect all First Nation peoples at different times and to varying extents, leading some communities to have no children eligible for registration under the Indian Act in the next generation.
- J. AFN Resolution 42/2022, *Demand for Consultation on Amendments to the Indian Act (1985)*, calls on the Government of Canada to not table any legislative amendments until it has adequately consulted with First Nations and provided the necessary resources for engagement.
- K. AFN Resolution 34/2024, *Advancing First Nations' Self-Determination by Reforming Indian Act Registration*, directs the AFN to advocate for legislative, regulatory and policy reforms and to co-develop these options with Canada to address elements of the Indian Act surrounding enfranchisement, deregistration and second-generation cut-off.
- L. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan, First Nations Action Plan Measures 7, 8 and 9 commits ISC and CIRNAC to support the adoption of Bill C-38, which seeks to address discrimination in the registration and membership provisions of the *Indian Act*, co-develop a collaborative consultation process on a suite of broader reforms related to registration and band membership issues to support the co-development of opt-in alternatives to the *Indian Act*.
- M. ISC has the narrow mandate to advance reforms to First Nations citizenship only through the Indian Act and has not presently taken any steps to engage on First Nations citizenship options outside of the Indian Act framework.
- N. CIRNAC has a mandate to engage with First Nations on pathways out of the Indian Act ("opt-in" alternatives to the Indian Act) yet does not have dedicated funding to conduct this work.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

- O. ISC and CIRNAC have not allocated any dedicated funding to First Nations to support First Nations' jurisdiction on citizenship.
- P. In 2024, Indigenous Services Canada began the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cut-Off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds. The collaborative process involves two phases: Co-development and information sharing; and consultation activities and events. A Rights-Holders Information Sharing Kit has been established in preparation for consultation events, with information sessions wrapping up in Fall 2024. A call-out for proposals for Phase 2 will begin in late-Fall 2024.

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

1. Re-affirm First Nation' inherent rights and jurisdiction to determine and define their own citizenship.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on Canada to immediately end sex- and gender-based discrimination in the *Indian Act* and take steps to recognize First Nations' inherent jurisdiction over citizenship and membership.
3. Call upon Canada to prioritize and fund immediate and meaningful engagement with First Nations with the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cut-Off Rule, recognizing the critical importance of immediate action required to alleviate adverse impacts of the current registration rules.
4. Call upon Canada to provide appropriate resources, funding and access to useable lands to support First Nations to accommodate and deliver services to growing populations.
5. Call upon Canada to prioritize First Nations perspectives in the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cut-Off Rule, highlighting the significance of the matter for our future generations.
6. Direct the AFN to take all necessary measures to actively engage with federal representatives, advocate for the interests of First Nations, and facilitate inclusive discussions that reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of our communities regarding First Nations citizenship and *Indian Act* registration.
7. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to take immediate steps for First Nations to exercise their Inherent rights and jurisdiction over citizenship that includes treaty membership, outside of the *Indian Act*, concurrently with necessary reforms within the *Indian Act*.
8. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to immediately implement *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan Measures related to First Nations' citizenship and provide adequate and sustainable funding to First Nations to support self-determination over citizenship.
9. Direct the AFN to develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy, including political lobbying and potential legal proceedings, to ensure that First Nations' jurisdiction over citizenship and ending sex- and gender-based discrimination in the *Indian Act* is prioritized and properly funded by Canada.
10. Direct the AFN to advocate that Canada recognize that each First Nation may consider applications for citizenship or transfers by individuals who may not meet *Indian Act*-defined band membership criteria, ensuring respect for inherent jurisdiction and the protection of cultural and community identity, and to advocate that the federal government provide funding for membership research.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 69/2024

TITLE:	Support for the Recognition of the As'in'ī'wa'chī Ni'yaw Nation, also known as Kelly Lake Cree Nation
SUBJECT:	Lands; Recognition and Rights
MOVED BY:	Chief Roger William, Xeni Gwet'in First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief John Jack, Huu-ay-aht First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 16 opposed; 24 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - iii. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - iv. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - v. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

69 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- vi. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs, and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
 - vii. Article 37: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements.
- B.** The As'in'î'wa'chî Ni'yaw Nation, also known as Kelly Lake Cree Nation (KLCN), is a self-determining First Nation possessing the Inherent rights of nationhood who has existed on their territory since time immemorial and has not yet entered into or adhered to Treaty or been acknowledged as an Indian band under the *Indian Act*.
- C.** In 2015, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 50/2015, *Support for Kelly Lake Cree Nation Land Settlement*, mandating the AFN to support the KLCN in the advancement of their longstanding land grievance, urging the Government of Canada to pursue negotiations with KLCN, and calling for an urgent meeting between KLCN and the Government of Canada.

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

1. Accept the As'in'î'wa'chî Ni'yaw Nation, also known as Kelly Lake Cree Nation (KLCN), as a member of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and support KLCN in their pursuit of federal recognition and resolution of outstanding grievances.
2. Call on the Government of Canada, and all levels of government, to take immediate and meaningful action, consistent with the Honour of the Crown, to ensure that KLCN can continue to exercise their Inherent and Treaty rights on their ancestral and traditional lands and territories.
3. Direct the AFN to support the convening of a meeting between the leadership of KLCN and the Government of Canada to engage in meaningful, Nation-to-Nation discussions on federal recognition and the resolution of all outstanding grievances.
4. Call on the Government of Canada to recognize and engage directly with the leadership of KLCN in order to establish a discussion, recognition, and negotiation table.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 70/2024

TITLE:	Full Involvement of First Nations in Additions to Reserve Re-Design
SUBJECT:	Lands; Policy Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Wilfred King, Gull Bay First Nation, ON
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 6 abstentions

WHEREAS:

A. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:*

- i. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- ii. Article 26 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- iii. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs, and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
- iv. Article 28 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
- v. Article 37: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

70 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements.

- B. For decades, First Nations have called for transformative change to Canada's Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy to address barriers to the efficient and timely conversion of lands to reserve.
- C. In May 2024, through its Board of Directors, the Lands Advisory Board (LAB) recommended to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) nine interim changes to the ATR Policy.
- D. In June 2024, CIRNAC initiated a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to facilitate the development of options to improve the ATR Policy. The TAC comprises of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the LAB, the National Aboriginal Land Manager's Association (NALMA), Westbank First Nation, CIRNAC, and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).
- E. In August 2024, the Minister of CIRNAC approved two interim changes to the ATR Policy: First Nations are no longer required to justify their need for land; and First Nations are no longer required to fit their ATR proposals into narrow categories of reserve creation.
- F. Throughout the summer and fall of 2024, the TAC discussed and agreed upon seven additional interim changes to the ATR Policy to recommend to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. These interim changes include:
 - i. Removing the requirement that environmental site assessments (ESAs) meet federal environmental requirements, and determining whether an interim change may allow ATR proposals to move forward with provincial and/or First Nation-directed environmental standards.
 - ii. Removing or revising the mandatory 3 month waiting period for other government departments, provinces and territories to provide their comments on ATR proposals.
 - iii. Removing the need for municipal service agreements (MSAs) to be finalized before the issuance of a Ministerial Order approving an ATR proposal.
 - iv. Removing or revising the dispute resolution subsection of the current ATR Policy.
 - v. Reducing the onerous requirements for the creation of joint reserves.
 - vi. Removing or revising the restrictions on improvements to proposed Reserve Lands.
 - vii. Simplifying the application process to submit ATR proposals.
- G. These interim changes are improvements to the existing ATR Policy but are unlikely to significantly expedite the approval of ATR proposals without further investments by the Government of Canada for implementation and capacity building as set out in the AFN's 2025 pre-budget submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.
- H. The ATR Policy requires a full re-design to ensure that it meets First Nations' priorities.
- I. The redesign of the ATR process must not derogate from existing processes to add lands to reserve or modern treaty lands.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

- J. Similarly, many First Nations with modern treaties have provisions regarding the process for additions to their treaty lands (ATL process) but Canada has not collaboratively developed a policy regarding how it will implement its obligations in the ATL process and to date there have been inordinate and inexplicable delays for modern treaty First Nations seeking additions to their treaty lands.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to continue to participate in technical discussions with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with representatives from interested modern treaty First Nations, to address challenges to First Nations accessing additional Reserve Lands or additional treaty lands (ATL) and report directly back to the First Nations-in-Assembly for progress.
2. Call on the Government of Canada to work collaboratively with:
 - i. First Nations to develop and implement a complete re-design of its Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy and process;
 - ii. Modern Treaty First Nations to collaboratively develop a policy for the ATL process, to ensure the timely and efficient conversion of lands to reserve, settlement lands, or treaty lands, as applicable.
3. Call on the Government of Canada to adequately resource the ATR process and the ATL process, including by providing capacity funding to First Nations to develop ATR proposals or ATL proposals.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

70 – 2024
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 71/2024

TITLE: Rejecting the Accessible Canada Act and Advancing Distinct First Nations
Accessibility Legislation

SUBJECT: Health; Accessibility

MOVED BY: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief James Hobart, Spuzzum First Nation, BC

DECISION Carried; 1 opposed; 4 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the State.
 - ii. Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
 - iii. Article 8 (2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (a) any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities.
 - iv. 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.
- B. In 2010, Canada ratified the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD), which is an international human rights treaty aimed at protecting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. Parties to the CRPD are required to promote and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights of persons with disabilities including full equality under the law.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

71 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- C. The CRPD and associated United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the CRDP by the States Parties, issued Concluding Observations on Canada's initial (2014) report on the CRDP, including specific recommendations to:
- i. Adopt cross-sectorial strategies with a view to combating inequality and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities through, inter alia, affirmative action measures that include clear targets and the collection of data on progress achieved disaggregated by age, sex, and Indigenous background.
 - ii. Consider Article 5 of the Convention (Equality and Non-Discrimination) while implementing targets 10. 2 and 10. 3 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, "Leave No One Behind."
- D. The *Accessible Canada Act* (ACA) was enacted in 2019, and First Nations are exempted until 2026 to enable engagements with First Nations regarding the application and implications of the ACA on First Nations persons with disabilities (FNPWD) and on First Nations governments.
- E. The ACA aims to achieve a barrier-free Canada by 2040 through the implementation of accessibility standards in seven key areas: Employment, Built Environment, Information & Communication Technologies, Transportation, Procurement, Service Design/ Delivery and Communications (other than IT).
- F. The ACA grants the authority to fine organizations, including First Nations, up to \$250,000 per violation for non-compliance. The ACA fails to address systemic barriers and further impoverishes FNPWD by creating barriers to access critical services, products, and supports and advancing the human rights of FNPWD. The ACA, as it currently stands, is poised to increase harm and perpetuate existing injustices for FNPWD and for First Nations governments in the following ways:
- i. **Infrastructure Gap:** The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) worked with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and industry-leading experts on a comprehensive estimate (entitled *Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030*) of the costs to close the infrastructure gap in First Nations by the year 2030, which the Minister of ISC is mandated to do. At over \$349 billion, the infrastructure gap is monumental and will continue to create barriers to achieving accessibility in First Nations without the provision of meaningful resources to address those gaps.
 - ii. **Misdiagnosis in First Nations:** Disability policy, including the ACA, assumes access to accurate diagnosis to receive disability status. However, diagnostic tools used in psychology, social work and medicine are not validated in First Nations and fail to account for the First Nations culture, world view and intergenerational trauma due to colonization.
 - iii. **Lack of Data:** The current lack of data on FNPWD populations makes it difficult to assess whether funds allocated for disability services, products, and supports for accessibility initiatives

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

are effectively addressing the barriers and meeting the needs of FNPWD. This is also a barrier to ensuring transparency and accountability.

- iv. **Override of Treaty Rights:** The ACA, as currently drafted, allows for its provisions to override Treaty Rights, infringing on First Nations' sovereignty and First Nations right to self-determination in managing distinct First Nations approaches on accessibility.

- G. The First Nations-in-Assembly have passed numerous resolutions affirming the need for distinct First Nations approaches to disability and accessibility, including Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 10/2018, *Resources for Engagement on Distinct First Nations Accessibility Legislation*.

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

1. Reject the *Accessible Canada Act (ACA)* and its application to First Nations by 2026, given its colonial framework, its incompatibility with First Nations' cultural worldview and governance systems, its disregard for the significant infrastructure gap that exists within First Nations, and the lack of relevant and necessary infrastructure, data, and culturally appropriate services, products, and supports in First Nations communities.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for First Nations-led development of distinct First Nations accessibility legislation, supported by sustainable funding and adequate mechanisms to hold the Government of Canada accountable for failing to provide the necessary services, products, supports, and infrastructure for First Nations persons with disabilities (FNPWD), and thereby infringing on their human rights and creating barriers to achieving accessibility in First Nations.
3. Call on the Government of Canada to provide dedicated, long-term and sustainable funding for the creation of accessible infrastructure, healthcare, and disability initiatives in First Nation communities, recognizing the right of First Nations to design and deliver these services, products, and supports, for their citizens if they so choose.
4. Direct the AFN to obtain a legal analysis on the ongoing discrimination of First Nations people with disabilities including options to hold the Government of Canada legally accountable.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 72/2024

TITLE: Treaty Right to Tax Exemption

SUBJECT: Rights; Treaties

MOVED BY: Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Joyce McLeod, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, SK

DECISION Carried; 6 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 28 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
 - ii. Article 28 (2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.
- B. Treaty Rights were secured in all parts of what is now Saskatchewan between 1871 and 1906 when the Treaties numbered 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10 were made between the Crown and First Nations.
- C. In those Treaties, First Nations were promised exemption from taxation by the Crown.
- D. The imposition of taxation by the federal and provincial governments on First Nations peoples and First Nations lands is a violation of Treaty Rights under those Treaties.
- E. Those Treaties are intended to be beneficial to all people in Saskatchewan as they are mutually beneficial arrangements that guarantee a peaceful co-existence between the Treaty parties.
- F. The federal and provincial governments have an obligation to honour and respect Treaty Rights, including the First Nations Treaty Right to exemption from taxation by the Crown.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

72 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- G.** The federal and Saskatchewan provincial governments have illegally imposed significant taxation on First Nations.

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

1. Call upon the federal and Saskatchewan provincial government to fulfil the tax exemption promise made by the Crown under Treaty and exempt all First Nations Peoples from all taxation by the Crown, including hidden and consumption taxes.
2. Call upon the federal and provincial government to reimburse First Nations Peoples for past taxes paid.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to provide legal and technical support to Treaty territories and First Nations in commencing legal action seeking recognition and enforcement of the Treaty Right to tax exemption.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

72 – 2024
Page 2 of 2



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 73/2024

TITLE:	Treaty Annuities Value
SUBJECT:	Rights; Treaties
MOVED BY:	Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake Cree Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Joyce McLeod, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, SK
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 9 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
 - ii. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
 - iii. Article 37 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.
- B.** First Nations have rights that are Inherent Rights that flow from the original occupation of the land that is now Canada.
- C.** Treaty Rights were secured in what is now Canada when the Treaties numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11, and their various adhesions, were made between the Crown and First Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

73 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- D. First Nations maintain that Treaty First Nations peoples possess a Treaty Right to Treaty Annuities that maintain the value and purchasing power of said Annuities at the time Treaties were entered into.
- E. Treaty Annuities were intended to benefit Treaty First Nations people by allowing Treaty First Nations peoples to purchase goods and resources moving forward and would be maintained for Treaty First Nations peoples in a fair and equitable manner.
- F. The value of Treaty Annuities has dwindled to a mere nominal or symbolic token.
- G. There has been a refusal of federal governments to honour the Treaty relationship by raising the value of Treaty Annuities to reflect inflation, or an amount equivalent to the purchasing power of annuities at the signing of Treaty, whichever is greater, which has significantly reduced the value and worth of Treaty Annuities over time.
- H. The refusal to raise the value of Treaty Annuities for First Nations peoples is an ongoing breach of Treaty.
- I. The federal and provincial governments have an obligation to honour and implement Treaty Rights.
- J. Several First Nations have initiated a class action lawsuit against the Government of Canada seeking to hold the Government of Canada accountable to its Treaty promises by seeking unpaid and underpaid Treaty Annuities and the regular adjustment of Treaty Annuities moving forward.
- K. The Robinson-Huron Treaty Annuity was recently settled in a court action against the Crown and the Government of Ontario.
- L. Nothing in this resolution shall abrogate or derogate from the Robinson-Huron or Robinson-Superior Treaties which includes Temagami First Nation.

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

1. Call on the Government of Canada to stop fighting First Nations in court and negotiate the settlement of such lawsuits in good faith in a manner that supports meaningful and genuine reconciliation.
2. Support First Nations Treaty Annuity lawsuits, such as by First Nations in Saskatchewan regarding Treaty 4, and call for any settlements and future annuities to be excluded from taxation and not considered income for the purpose of calculating any benefits, such as Social Assistance or Old Age Security benefits.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to support Treaty territories and First Nations in launching legal action on the value of annuities, by providing overall legal and technical support, as well as supporting an economic study on the value of Treaty Annuities from the past to the present and in perpetuity as may be requested for all future generations and supporting efforts to obtain the necessary funding to undertake this work.
4. Affirm that any adjustments, settlements, or payments related to Treaty Annuities will be designed to enhance, not diminish, the socioeconomic well-being of First Nations. These adjustments will:
 - a. **Exclude taxation and means testing**, such that any funds are exempt from taxation and excluded from calculations for income-based benefits such as Social Assistance, Old Age Security, or the Canada Pension Plan;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

- b. Preserve existing benefits**, by ensuring that increased annuity payments do not reduce or replace any current federal or provincial benefits received by First Nations individuals or communities; and
- c. Prioritize community-led decision-making**, by being distributed or utilized in ways that are determined by the affected First Nations communities themselves, reflecting their collective priorities and governance systems.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

73 – 2024
Page 3 of 3



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 74/2024

TITLE:	Expanding Non-Insured Health Benefits Coverage to Include Allied Health Services
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) signed by Canada in December 10, 1948, states:
- i. Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care.
- B.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- C.** The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action (2015), particularly Calls to Action #18-23, highlight the imperative to address health inequities and ensure First Nations have access to the same quality of health care as other Canadians.
- i. Call to Action 18: We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
 - ii. Call to Action 19: We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide,

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.

- D. The National Inquiry into the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry's Calls for Justice (2019) include #3.2, which states:
- i. We call upon all governments to provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous-centred and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate, and meet the health and wellness needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The lack of health and wellness services within Indigenous communities continues to force Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to relocate in order to access care. Governments must ensure that health and wellness services are available and accessible within Indigenous communities and wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people reside.
- E. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 05/20, *Principle for the elimination of racism and discrimination in the services provided to First Nations*, calls on Canada to recognize Joyce's Principle (2020).
- F. In alignment with the Charter of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN Charter), which aims "to promote social progress and better standards of life" among First Nations peoples, the AFN acknowledges the financial constraints and access barriers which significantly hinder many First Nations individuals from obtaining essential allied health services—such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, and podiatry. This lack of access not only drives up healthcare costs but also compromises health outcomes, placing an additional burden on the healthcare system.
- G. The AFN recognizes the transformative potential of allied health services to enhance quality of life, promote wellness, manage chronic conditions, improve mobility, and reduce costly healthcare interventions, such as hospitalizations and emergency room visits.
- H. The escalating health challenges among First Nations demonstrate the need for wholistic approaches, including the provision of allied health services to address chronic illnesses and reduce reliance on opioids, thereby mitigating opioid overdoses and preventable mortalities.
- I. The AFN recognizes that the current opioid crisis among First Nations underscores the critical need for expanded Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB) coverage for allied health services to address pain management, instead of only coverage for opioids. As well, the AFN recognizes that the opioid crisis escalated during the same time period (late 1990's to early 2000's) that the Government of Canada decided unilaterally to remove allied health services from the NIHB Program (1997). As a result, many general physicians' only remaining option to help their patients was to prescribe opioid medications rather than institute allied health services. The government's failure to reinstate or expand these vital health services indicates a lack of proactive measures to combat the crisis. This inaction reflects a broader neglect of the health needs of First Nations communities.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for the Government of Canada to expand the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB) to cover allied health services; to include but not be limited to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic services, speech therapy, audiology, and podiatry; as well as advocate for the inclusion of dental work and optometry to ensure equitable access, wholistic wellness promotion, respect for First Nations healthcare choices, and integrate allied health services into existing healthcare systems.
2. Direct the AFN to engage in dialogue with relevant government authorities, healthcare providers, and First Nations organizations to advocate for the inclusion of allied health services within the NIHB Program.
3. Direct the AFN, and urge the NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee, to collaborate in conducting a thorough review of the existing NIHB Program, specifically evaluating the inclusion of allied health services and collaborate with healthcare professionals, relevant associations, and experts to conduct comprehensive research on the scope and impact of the NIHB coverage for allied health services, considering the diverse healthcare and cultural needs within various regions.
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for adequate resources and funding to support the research and development initiatives aimed at expanding the NIHB coverage to include allied health services.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

74 – 2024
Page 3 of 3



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 75/2024

TITLE:	Non-Insured Health Benefits Medical Transportation Policy Discriminatory to First Nations
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B. Significant disparities in health outcomes experienced by First Nations exist as a result of historical and ongoing settler-colonial influences and systemic inequities.
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, including specifically Calls #18-23 related to health, emphasize the need to address health inequities and ensure First Nations access to the same quality of health care as other Canadians.
- D. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 05/20, *Principle for the elimination of racism and discrimination in the services provided to First Nations*, calls on Canada to recognize Joyce's Principle (2020) that, in response to the tragic and preventable death of Joyce Echaquan, "...aims to guarantee to all Indigenous people the right to equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services, as well as the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health."
- E. Section 12 E of the *Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Medical Transportation Policy Framework for First Nations and Inuit* (the Policy Framework), entitled "Exclusions", specifies that medical transportation will not cover "travel for clients residing in an off-reserve location where the appropriate health services are available locally".

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

75 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- F. Section 1.6 of the Policy Framework, entitled “General Principles” provides that, “where a client is required to travel repeatedly on a long-term basis to access medical care and treatment, medical transportation benefits will be provided for up to 4 months. Extensions may be considered on an exception basis.” This leaves coverage decisions for chronic treatments to be considered only on an exception basis.
- G. First Nation members often have to relocate to urban centres in order access medical treatments not available on-reserve, leaving their social supports behind.
- H. This NIHB Policy Framework does not cover or reimburse members for urban travel to their medical appointments, whereas it does cover travel costs for those members traveling to medical appointments outside of their community of residence.
- I. First Nation communities with limited resources often provide financial support for their members’ travel due to this policy gap.
- J. First Nations assert that the Government of Canada has the fiduciary responsibility to uphold the Treaty and Inherent rights to healthcare, which must include the ability to access care.
- K. Section 12 E of the Policy Framework discriminates against First Nations people due to their residency and, by failing to provide for medical transportation, violates the human right to access medical care and necessary social services as outlined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

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

1. Call on the Government of Canada and the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to eliminate Section 12 E of the *Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Medical Transportation Policy Framework for First Nations and Inuit*, as it is discriminatory against First Nations members residing off-reserve, as well as First Nations in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
2. Call on the Government of Canada and Indigenous Services Canada to implement and use the Treasury Board rate for medical travel, ending the discrimination against First Nations individuals currently receiving 22.6 cents per kilometer.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 76/2024

TITLE:	Support for Greater Investment into the Reclamation of Childbirth
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their Indigenous origin or identity.
 - 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 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.
- B.** Section 3.2 in the Calls for Justice issued by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls calls upon all governments to provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous-centered and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate, and meet the health and wellness needs of Indigenous women, girls, 2-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual (2SLGBTQIA) people. The lack of health and wellness services within Indigenous communities continues to force Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people to relocate in order to access care. Governments

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chuxhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

76 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

must ensure that health and wellness services are available and accessible within Indigenous communities and wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people reside.

- C. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan includes Action Plan Measure 12, which commits Indigenous Services Canada to support initiatives aimed at increasing First Nations control over service delivery, which represents an opportunity to foster a more accessible health care system for the communities they serve, ensuring health services are high quality and culturally safe.
- D. First Nations Midwives enable access to culturally safe sexual and reproductive health care for Indigenous families, the return of birth to communities, and a reduction in the number of First Nations people forced to evacuate for births. First Nations midwives are primary care providers for pregnancy, birth and postpartum for pregnant people and newborns. They provide clinically excellent care to Indigenous and non-Indigenous families.
- E. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 21/2019, *Support for a Greater Investment into the Reclamation into Childbirth* called for the federal government to increase funding and training opportunities, and replace the outdated mandatory evacuation policy to help empower First Nations women to reclaim the ceremony of childbirth closer to home.
- F. AFN Resolution 22/2021, *Community-based Indigenous-led Midwifery Education Pathways* directed the AFN to call on the federal government to recognize midwives, commit to sustained and comprehensive investments in midwifery and education and to work with the National Council of Indigenous Midwives (formerly the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives) and First Nations to advance Indigenous midwifery.
- G. The National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM) exists to promote excellence in reproductive health care for Inuit, First Nations, and Métis women. NCIM advocates for the restoration of midwifery education, the provision of midwifery services, and choice of birthplace for all Indigenous communities, all in alignment with the UN Declaration. As a national voice for Indigenous midwifery, NCIM supports the advancement of Indigenous midwifery in a variety of ways that include:
 - i. Publishing a Core Competencies Framework for Indigenous midwifery knowledges and skills;
 - ii. Expanding opportunities for community-based Indigenous midwifery education;
 - iii. Leveraging expertise and other strengths to advocate for federal and provincial/territorial funding and regulatory changes to advance bringing birth back to community; and
 - iv. Developing resources and host learning opportunities for health providers and First Nations communities to mitigate anti-Indigenous racism in health and grow First Nations-led health.
- H. Strong, sustainable Indigenous midwifery in First Nations communities can address anti-Indigenous racism in health care education services where primary care and health care provider training would be provided by First Nations midwives within their communities.

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

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to immediately commit to increased and sustained investments in Indigenous midwifery and related infrastructure in Canada.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

2. Direct the AFN to call on the federal government to immediately commit to investments in Indigenous-led, community-based midwifery education pathways in First Nations and continue to support opportunities for community-based midwifery education, in partnership with National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM) and First Nations.
3. Direct the AFN to continue to work with NCIM in the mobilization of an Indigenous midwifery-led health human resource strategy. This includes calling upon the federal and provincial governments to collaborate with NCIM and First Nations to end to forced birth evacuations, forced sterilization, and forced apprehensions, recognizing that these harmful practices are prevalent across Canada and continue to disproportionately affect First Nations communities and vulnerable community members
4. Call on the department of Indigenous Services Canada to immediately take the measures necessary to ensure that midwives are recognized as essential primary health care providers in federal health jurisdictions.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 77/2024

TITLE:	Developing a First Nations Tuberculosis Elimination Strategy in Canada
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 24 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
 - ii. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B.** The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action specifically include Call to Action #19, which calls upon the federal government, in consultation with Indigenous peoples, to close the gaps in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, including Tuberculosis (TB) rates.
- C.** The *Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care*, developed by the World Care Council and in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Stop TB Partnership, declare TB patients and their communities have "the right to participate as stakeholders in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of TB policies and programs with local, national, and international authorities."
- D.** TB remains a significant public health concern for First Nations communities across Canada, most notably in northern remote communities in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. While up to date data and reporting on First Nations TB rates are sporadic, First Nations infection rates are consistently and significantly higher than in non-Indigenous populations. According to Health Canada, in 2022, the incidence

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

77 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

of active TB per 100,000 population for First Nations was 21.4, compared to 0.3 for non-Indigenous Canadians. The disproportionate burden of TB in First Nations is linked to factors such as overcrowded housing, lack of access to healthcare, and other social determinants of health resulting from colonialism and systemic inequities.

- E. There is existing work completed by Indigenous peoples and advocates at the international level that can be studied and utilized in the development of a First Nations TB Elimination Strategy.
- F. Currently, Canada does not have a National TB Elimination Strategy, and existing health strategies and federal commitments have not sufficiently addressed the unique needs and conditions in First Nations communities to eliminate TB.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to establish a First Nations Technical Response for Eliminating All Tuberculosis (FN-TREAT) committee, subject to available financial and staffing resources, that will consist of regional First Nations health organizations, federal and provincial governments, and tuberculosis (TB) related health organizations to develop a First Nations-led TB Elimination Strategy.
2. Direct the AFN to seek and, where possible, secure adequate and appropriate resources from the federal government to support the FN-TREAT committee's work in developing a Strategic Plan, including funding for regional consultations, expert meetings, and data gathering.
3. Direct the AFN to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly within one year on the progress of developing the TB Elimination Strategy, including key findings from community engagement, and present a First Nations-led TB Elimination Strategy for consideration and approval.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 78/2024

TITLE: Enhanced Health Emergency Management Funding and Naloxone Access to Address First Nations Dying At Higher Rates

SUBJECT: Health; Opioid Crisis

MOVED BY: Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC

DECISION Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 24 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
 - ii. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B. The United Nations 2030 Agenda, adopted by all United Nations Member states in 2015, provides a blueprint for peace and prosperity of individuals by setting 17 urgent goals. These goals recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies to improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, and protect the planet. The goals include, notably, Good Health and Well-Being, and Reduced Inequalities, among others.
- C. First Nations have entered into Treaties with representatives of the Crown, at which time representatives of the Crown made promises regarding the right to health and safety for First Nations citizens.
- D. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #19 states: We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

78 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends.

- E. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the federal department responsible for coordinating funding and services to First Nations, has consistently failed to provide First Nations communities with adequate resources and funding which has contributed to aging infrastructure, weak socioeconomic supports, homes in remote locations, and a history of communities being relocated from traditional lands to flood and wildfire-prone areas. As a result, First Nations continue to die at disproportionate rates, to die younger, and to declare reoccurring states of emergencies in hopes these crises may finally be meaningfully and sustainably addressed.
- F. First Nations people, on and off reserve, experience higher mortality rates compared with the non-Indigenous populations of Canada. Avoidable mortality from assault, suicide, accidental overdoses and unintentional injuries are due to structural colonization and negligence of responsibilities by governments perpetuated by systemic racism in the form of underfunding by Canada.
- G. Health inequities between First Nations and all other Canadians have widened significantly over time. Efforts to manage the health and social consequences among First Nations people have not been sufficiently funded as ISC continues to ignore the dire outcomes of inequities. This includes failing to provide access to safe, affordable and effective means to combat the disproportionate rates of opioid overdose experienced by First Nations, such as NARCAN™ (Naloxone) Nasal Spray.
- H. Under the ISC Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program, NARCAN™ (Naloxone) Nasal Spray is listed as an open benefit. However, ISC has discontinued supplying essential equipment directly to First Nations when requested, such as Naloxone, in the midst of an ongoing opioid epidemic where such equipment is desperately needed, resulting in First Nations being required to obtain Narcan individually by seeking out a pharmacist or pharmacy; or, First Nations individuals must apply for funding for essential supplies but, due to stigma and limited access to pharmacies on reserves, experience unnecessary and avoidable barriers and protracted intervention times.
- I. The Health Emergency Management (HEM) program is designed to support communities in their capacity development to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies, and health impacts resulting from natural or accidental hazards, such as the spread of communicable diseases. For example:
 - i. measles, syphilis and others,
 - ii. food and water contamination,
 - iii. environmental health hazards such as mold, air quality, and others,
 - iv. suicide clusters, and
 - v. opioid or other drug crises.
- J. The HEM program operates as a reimbursement program; communities respond to the event, incur costs, and then submit a claims package to their ISC-HEM Regional Office with supporting documentation (invoices, paystubs, receipts, etc.) for reimbursement. Communities may also request an advanced payment from ISC to promptly respond to the event and address their cash flow requirements.
- K. The patriarchal requirements and underfunded emergency response to critical situations for First Nations lead to lasting negative impacts on the spiritual, emotional, physical and mental wellbeing of First Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

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

1. Call on Canada to work with First Nations to review the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) policy regarding community access to NARCAN™ (Naloxone) nasal spray, to ensure ease of access to the lifesaving tool when it is most needed.
2. Call on Canada to work with First Nations to review and make recommended revisions to the funding criteria of the Health Emergency Management (HEM) program allowing First Nations to access the necessary supplies and equipment during their response to health emergencies.
3. Call on Canada to ensure that the HEM program is supported by a funding envelope that is sufficient to ensure First Nations can manage crises in a timely, reliable manner.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 79/2024

TITLE:	Call for Sustainable and Predictable Funding in First Nations Health Services and Emergency Response Services
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. 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.
 - ii. Article 24 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
 - iii. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B.** The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #18 states:
- i. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

79 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- C. First Nations people face significant health disparities compared to non-Indigenous Canadians, including higher rates of chronic illness, mental health challenges, and preventable diseases, which are often exacerbated by inadequate healthcare infrastructure, underfunding, and a lack of access to culturally appropriate care. Reducing funding in First Nations' health services would deepen these disparities and hinder First Nations' ability to address urgent health needs effectively.
- D. The COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing opioid crisis have highlighted severe healthcare accessibility issues for First Nations people, exposing critical gaps in emergency response services, healthcare infrastructure, mental health services, and addiction services. These crises emphasize the urgent need for increased and stable funding to support First Nations, ensuring First Nations are equipped to address both current and future public health challenges effectively.
- E. The Treaty right to health, affirmed in Treaties across Canada, obligates the federal government to provide adequate healthcare services to First Nations. Reductions in funding for health services would undermine these Treaty commitments, as they would impede First Nations' ability to achieve equitable health outcomes and limit access to essential health services.

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

1. Call upon the Government of Canada, including Indigenous Services Canada and Health Canada, to ensure that there are no cuts in First Nations' health and emergency response services or reductions in needed ways to access health and emergency response services.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the federal government to co-develop an equitable, sustainable fiscal arrangement that ensures that First Nations, with particular consideration for rural, remote, and isolated communities, have access to responsive, timely, adequate health and emergency response services and will not be impacted by fiscal uncertainty in maintaining these key services.
3. Direct the AFN to conduct an economic impact study on the chronic, discretionary underfunding of health, specifically the Treaty right to health, and how this process has been termed "Non-Insured", minimizing the numbered Treaty fiduciary responsibility of the successor of the Crown.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 80/2024

TITLE: Call for National Cultural Safety and Humility Standard

SUBJECT: Social Programs; Cultural Safety and Humility

MOVED BY: Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC

DECISION Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** On April 6, 2023, in Ottawa, Ontario, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 30/2023, *Towards a National Cultural Safety and Humility Standard*, acknowledging:
- i. Widespread Indigenous-specific racism continues to persist at many levels and forms within the provincial and territorial health systems in Canada, evident along the continuum from the personal to the systemic level.
 - ii. Indigenous-specific racism has devastating and far-reaching consequences, including negative impacts on Indigenous access to health care and health outcomes, including avoidable death.
 - iii. Actions and commitments targeted to address Indigenous-specific racism are needed at all levels of the health system.
 - iv. The Health Standards Organization, in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), developed the British Columbia Cultural Safety and Humility Standard, which is the first of its kind in Canada. The Cultural Safety and Humility Standard aims to create culturally safe environments for Indigenous Peoples in the health system, encourages health care providers to provide care with humility, and end Indigenous-specific racism.
- B.** Resolution 30/2023 resolved to:
- i. Recognize the importance of enhancing access to quality, culturally safe health care that is free of Indigenous-specific racism and that affirms Indigenous cultures, rights, and identities.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

80 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- ii. Support the adoption of the British Columbia Cultural Safety and Humility Standard or similar standards by federal, provincial, and territorial governments and entities across the country.

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

1. Call on Health Canada and Indigenous Services Canada to fund the Canada-wide adoption of the British Columbia Cultural Safety and Humility Standard as endorsed by the First Nations-in-Assembly through Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 30/2023, *Towards a National Cultural Safety and Humility Standard*, and to fully fund and implement this initiative in a manner that is responsive to specific regional contexts, in recognition of the importance of enhancing access to quality, culturally safe health care, free of Indigenous-specific racism that affirms Indigenous cultures, rights, and identities.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

80 – 2024
Page 2 of 2



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 81/2024

TITLE:	Addressing Trauma from Indian Residential Schools, Day Schools, MMIWG2S+ and Burial Sites for Unknown Persons
SUBJECT:	Health; Healing; Indian Residential Schools; MMIWG2S+
MOVED BY:	Chief John Powell, Mamalilikulla First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Wade Grant, Proxy, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - ii. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace, and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - iii. Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
 - iv. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
 - v. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view of achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B. Under Article 12 of the United Nations *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*, Canada is obligated to, "*recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.*"

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

81 – 2024
Page 1 of 4

- C. The Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada include:
- i. #18: We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
 - ii. #21: We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.
 - iii. # 74: We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested.
 - iv. # 76: We call upon the parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating and protecting residential school cemeteries to adopt strategies in accordance with the following principles:
 - i. The Aboriginal community most affected shall lead the development of such strategies; and
 - ii. Information shall be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers in the development of such strategies.
- D. The Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) call upon all governments to address the ongoing crisis of violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit/LGBTQQIA+ persons across Canada. These calls include:
- i. [1.3] ...to pursue prioritization and resourcing of the measures required to eliminate the social, economic, cultural, and political marginalization of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people when developing budgets and determining government activities and priorities.
 - ii. [3.2] ...to provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous centered and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate, and meet the health and wellness needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The lack of health and wellness services within Indigenous communities continues to force Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to relocate in order to access care. Governments must ensure that health and wellness services are available and accessible within Indigenous communities and wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people reside.
 - iii. [3.7] ... to provide continual and accessible healing programs and support for all children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and their family members. Specifically, we call for the permanent establishment of a fund akin to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and related funding. These funds and their administration must be

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

independent from government and must be distinctions-based. There must be accessible and equitable allocation of specific monies within the fund for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples.

- E. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) highlights the devastating impacts of residential schools and day schools and continues to identify and commemorate burial sites associated with these institutions and unknown persons.
- F. The Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools' final report, *Sites of Truth, Sites of Conscience, Unmarked Burials and Mass Graves of Missing and Disappeared Indigenous Children in Canada*, noted the following obligations:
- i. #29. The federal government, in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, must establish additional healing lodges and centres in Indigenous communities to fulfill the State's international legal obligations to provide meaningful reparations for the mass human rights violations committed.
 - ii. #30. Federal, provincial, and territorial governments must provide, without discrimination, sufficient health and wellness supports for Survivors, Indigenous families, and communities impacted by the search and recovery efforts for the missing and disappeared children. This requires the development and implementation of distinctions-based, trauma-informed health supports within existing health-care systems.
- G. In the 2021 Speech from the Throne, the Governor General of Canada publicly stated:
- i. "To support communities, the Government will also invest significantly in a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy, guided by Indigenous Peoples, survivors, and their families;"
 - ii. Everyone in our country deserves to be safe;"
 - iii. "That is why the Government will accelerate work with Indigenous partners to address the national tragedy of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People."
- H. Budget 2024 stated that, "Everyone in Canada deserves to have the support they need to live a healthy and prosperous life. Due to the legacies of colonialism, access to opportunities and supports can be further from reach in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. The federal government is committed to supporting Indigenous communities in building healthy communities." It also states, "Budget 2024 is investing in better health care and critical infrastructure, co-developed and co-led with Indigenous communities, to ensure better health outcomes for all Indigenous Peoples."
- I. Through Action Plan Measure 81 in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is responsible to "Improve health equity through access to culturally-appropriate health and wellness services and support for holistic approaches to healing, including community-based, land-based, culturally relevant and trauma informed mental health services addressing—among other things—suicide and addictions crises."
- J. Through Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 39/2024, *Establishment of Funding for a First Nations Healing Fund*, the First Nations-in-Assembly:
- i. Directed the AFN to call on Canada to fully fund and support the creation of a First Nations Healing Fund;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

- ii. Called on the AFN to advocate for this fund to provide resources from all levels of government to support First Nations in creating culturally appropriate and trauma-informed healing centres; and
- iii. Directed the AFN to seek to secure support and long-term, sustainable, and dedicated funding for the First Nations Healing Fund when engaging in discussions with ISC regarding Action Plan Measure 81.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to, in cooperation with First Nations Elders, Knowledge Keepers, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, men, women and youth, develop and invest in a long-term, sustainable plan to address the trauma arising from the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and the discovery of Indian Residential Schools (IRS) unmarked burials and mass graves.
2. Call upon ISC and CIRNAC to ensure that the long-term plan, outlined above, includes funding for the establishment of a First Nations Healing Fund as called for in AFN Resolution 39/2024, *Establishment of Funding for a First Nations Healing Fund*.
3. Direct the AFN to call upon ISC and CIRNAC to ensure that any models for developing and investing in long-term, sustainable plans to establish First Nations-centered health and wellness supports, programs, lodges, and centres, are created by and for First Nations and that funding is sustainable, predictable, and flexible in meeting the needs of those affected by the ongoing crises of MMIWG2S+ and IRS unmarked burials and mass graves.
4. Call upon ISC and CIRNAC to develop and invest in long-term, sustainable programming and funding to address the multi-levels of historical and ongoing trauma with effective outcomes for First Nations peoples, whether they reside on reserve or not.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 82/2024

TITLE: Support for the Criminalization of Forced and Coerced Sterilization

SUBJECT: Justice

MOVED BY: Chief Constance Big Eagle, Ocean Man First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation, AB

DECISION Carried; 2 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular those based on their Indigenous origin or identity.
 - ii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - iii. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - iv. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B.** The forced sterilization of First Nations women by medical professionals breaches the free, prior and informed consent and other human rights standards enshrined in the UN Declaration.
- C.** In Article II of the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, the crime of genocide includes “acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group” and specifically lists, “Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group” as

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

82 – 2024

Page 1 of 3

one of the five actions listed. As such, the forced sterilization of First Nations women arguably falls under the internationally accepted definition of genocide.

- D. In First Nations worldviews, women are respected as the life givers and caregivers within their Nations, and based on these beliefs, are viewed as sacred.
- E. The First Nations-in-Assembly passed Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 51/2022, *Mandate to Co-Develop Criminal Code Amendments for the Criminalization of Forced and Coerced Sterilization*, calling on the Government of Canada to co-develop amendments to the *Criminal Code of Canada* that will recognize forced and coerced sterilization of First Nations women as a specific offence and an act of genocide.
- F. Senator Yvonne Boyer introduced a private member's bill called Bill S-250, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sterilization procedures)*. This version of the bill included concepts of both forced and coerced sterilization along with safeguard provisions.
- G. While in review with the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Bill S-250 was amended substantially to condense its content from 55 lines to 14 lines where the notion of coerced sterilization was removed along with the previously proposed safeguards.
- H. On October 8, 2024, the amended Bill S-250 completed its Third Reading and was passed in the Senate where it is now awaiting First Reading in the House of Commons.
- I. Bill S-250 is an important part of the implementation of the MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice.

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

1. Reaffirm support for amendments to the *Criminal Code of Canada* that will recognize forced and coerced sterilization of First Nations women as a specific offence and an act of genocide.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for additional amendments to Bill S-250, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sterilization procedures)*, which recognizes that sterilization of persons without their consent is a violent assault, and is a legacy of systemic discrimination, colonization, racism and genocide that disproportionately affects First Nations.
3. Direct the AFN to advocate for amendments to Bill S-250, including:
 - a. Adding legal safeguards and protections for free, prior, and informed consent that recognize there could be linguistic and cultural barriers when conveying medical information;
 - b. Adding language involving medical practitioners where their role is clarified in preventing forced sterilization before proceeding with sterilization procedures;
 - c. Protections for First Nations and racialized persons, including that patients are provided with an opportunity to consult with a trusted person or support person before giving consent, and an opportunity to say who should be present or not present for conversations regarding sterilization procedures, and safeguards to address the power imbalances between First Nations women and medical providers;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

- d. Allegations into forced sterilization be impartially investigated and those identified in carrying out such crimes are held accountable;
- e. There are added legal consequences for subsequent or multiple offences; and
- f. That a victim's First Nations identity be considered an aggravating factor in sentencing.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

82 – 2024
Page 3 of 3



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 83/2024

TITLE:	Ensure Full Implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy First Nations Chapter
SUBJECT:	Justice
MOVED BY:	Chief Constance Big Eagle, Ocean Man First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation, AB
DECISION	Carried; 2 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - ii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - iii. Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.
- B.** Historical and ongoing systemic inequities found in Canada's justice system target and disproportionately impact First Nations Peoples, with various studies, reports, inquiries, and commissions pointing to the systemic anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination in Canada's justice system, resulting in over-criminalization, and over-representation of Indigenous peoples in correctional institutions.
- C.** First Nations across the country, working at the community level and collectively, have been developing solutions to the urgent concerns of the Canadian justice system.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

83 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- D. In December 2020, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 07/2020, *Call for Reform to Address Institutional Racism in the Justice Systems*, calling for the development of a First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS) to be led by the Chiefs of the AFN.
- E. In December 2021, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 36/2021, *Call for Recommitment, Funding and Clear Timeline for the Development and Implementation of a National First Nations Justice Strategy*, calling for the AFN to engage with Justice Canada and the Minister of Justice to set clear principles, funding, and guidelines for the co-development and eventual implementation of a FNJS.
- F. In July 2022, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 11/2022, *Establishing a Chiefs' Committee on Justice*, calling for the AFN to create a Chiefs' Committee through article 7(3) of the AFN Charter, whose objective is to provide guidance on the co-development and implementation of a National FNJS.
- G. In July 2024, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 15/2024, *Call for Renewed Support of the Co-Development and Implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy*, directing the AFN to continue working with Justice Canada and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in the co-development and implementation of a National FNJS, that will be incorporated into a broader Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS).
- H. Justice Canada and the AFN carried out three years of concurrent engagement with First Nations stakeholders, regions, and legal scholars across Canada, to gather expertise and input into the development of the First Nations-specific components of an IJS.
- I. The AFN submitted the *AFN Report on Recommendations for a First Nations Justice Strategy* to Justice Canada that culminates the three years of engagement activities to inform the creation of the justice strategy. The report presents two main recommendations: 1. Reform of the Canadian Criminal Justice System and 2. Revitalization of First Nations Laws, Systems, and Legal Orders.
- J. Justice Canada has been working to co-develop distinctions-based (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) chapters to include in the IJS and intends to release the IJS by the end of 2024. In coordinating the distinctions-based chapters of the IJS, Justice Canada has opted for an approach favouring a high-level FNJS Chapter with no specific lines of action attached.

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

1. Support the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to release a National First Nations Justice Strategy that is complimentary to the First Nations Justice Chapter of the Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS), which will include the following components:
 - a. Regional and demographic considerations that recognize the diversity and unique situation for all First Nations in Canada;
 - b. Reform of the current criminal justice system aimed at helping to reduce or slow down the negative impacts of the justice system until revitalization work is established;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 84/2024

TITLE:	Support the Special Interlocutor's Indigenous-Led Reparations Framework
SUBJECT:	Justice; Indian Residential Schools
MOVED BY:	Chief Constance Big Eagle, Ocean Man First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation, AB
DECISION	Carried; 2 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace, and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - ii. Article 8 (2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - i. Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities.
 - ii. Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights.
 - iii. Any form of forced assimilation or integration.
 - iii. Article 12 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop, and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to religious and cultural sites; the right to use and control their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
 - iv. Article 12 (2): States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with Indigenous peoples concerned.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

84 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) focused an entire volume on the missing children and unmarked graves of Indigenous children who attended Canada's Indian Residential Schools (IRS), reporting 3,213 documented missing children, and an estimated combined total of 6,000 deaths and missing children.
- C. TRC Calls to Action (71-76) call on Canadian governments and churches to work with First Nations to identify the locations of unmarked graves, and to inform families of their missing children.
- D. On May 27, 2021, Tk'emlups te Secwépemc announced they had discovered 215 unmarked graves of missing children who attended the former Kamloops IRS.
- E. Since that time, a total of 4,100 unmarked graves have been found across Canada at former IRS sites. Thirty-five Indigenous communities are currently undergoing their own ground penetrating radar (GPR) screening, and there is a backlog of 386 inquiries from survivors and communities seeking to obtain records of children who did not return from residential schools.
- F. On June 8, 2022, Kimberly Murray was appointed the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites with a mandate to create a new legal framework and process to support search and recovery efforts, and to advance reconciliation in Canada. The Special Interlocutor hosted six national survivor gatherings and produced 12 reports on missing children and unmarked graves and burial sites.
- G. The Special Interlocutor released its *Final Report on the Missing and Disappeared Indigenous Children and Unmarked Burials in Canada*, on October 30, 2024 in Gatineau, Quebec. The final report included 42 obligations to establish a new Indigenous-Led Reparations Framework that will ensure survivors, families and communities exercise their sovereignty as they establish rights based, trauma informed processes based on Indigenous Laws to search for, recover, and commemorate the missing and disappeared children and burial sites.
- H. On October 31, 2024, the Hon. Senator Mary Jane McCallum introduced the following motion in response to the Special Interlocutor's final report: "That the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples be authorized to examine and report on how the Indian Residential School system constitutes a crime against humanity and a genocide, pursuant to the *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*, S.C. 2000, c. 24, and Articles 6 and 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and in accordance with Article II of the United Nations *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*; and, that the committee submit its final report to the Senate no later than June 26, 2025."

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

- 1. Call upon the Government of Canada, provinces and territories, in full partnership with First Nations, to take immediate action to fully implement the Indigenous-Led Reparations Framework and the 42 obligations outlined in the final report of the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Obligation #2: Establishing a National, Indigenous-Led Commission of Investigation into Missing and Disappeared Indigenous Children and Unmarked Burials to address barriers and support access to search technologies such as ground penetrating radar and other methods used to search,

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 85/2024

TITLE:	Support Bill C-413 to Provide Protection Against Anti-Indigenous Hate Speech and Residential School Denialism
SUBJECT:	Justice; Residential School Denialism
MOVED BY:	Chief Constance Big Eagle, Ocean Man First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation, AB
DECISION	Carried; 2 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
 - ii. Article 8 (2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
 - (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.
- B. First Nations-in-Assembly honour the memories of all our relations who attended Residential Schools at the behest of Canada.
- C. The Government of Canada, under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, publicly apologized for the proximal and intergenerational harm caused by the Residential School system.
- D. In 2022, the *Criminal Code of Canada* was updated to include antisemitism, specifically Holocaust denial in public forums, as a punishable offence.
- E. Bill C-413, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (promotion of hatred against Indigenous peoples)*, will update the *Criminal Code of Canada* to include anti-Indigenous hate speech, specifically denial of the impacts of Residential Schools, as a punishable offence.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

85 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- F. There are, in 2024, political, corporate, and celebrity figures (in addition to average Canadians) who continually deny the negative impacts of the Residential School system, up to and including the presence of deceased children on Residential School grounds, which:
- i. further perpetuates the trauma and gaslighting experienced by previous generations of First Nation families whose children were taken to Residential Schools;
 - ii. further perpetuates the ignorance of the general public of the true experiences of those who were involved with the Residential School system; and
 - iii. significantly diminishes hope for Reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and the Canadian federal, provincial and territorial governments and their citizens.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to publicly support Bill C-413, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (promotion of hatred against Indigenous peoples)*, to provide protection against anti-Indigenous hate speech and Residential School denialism.
2. Call upon the Government of Canada to prioritize Bill C-413 in the parliamentary process, as it is not a government bill.
3. Call on all of Canada's political representatives to come together to ensure the truth of Canada's history relating to Indian Residential Schools and other colonial policies is shared to increase the general awareness and understanding thereof among the Canadian public.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 86/2024

TITLE: Support for Gender Inclusive Advocacy to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples

SUBJECT: Justice; Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples

MOVED BY: Chief Constance Big Eagle, Ocean Man First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation, AB

DECISION Carried; 2 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - ii. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - iii. Article 22 (1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
 - iv. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. The unique circumstances of Indigenous women and girls was examined in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, *Reclaiming Power and Place*. The Final Report of the Inquiry released in 2019 identified serious gaps in the justice system and policing largely because of systemic racism, discrimination, and a lack of access to justice. The issues in the criminal justice system and policing also extend to the experiences of First Nations men, boys, Two-Spirit people, and their families.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

86 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- C. *Reclaiming Power and Place's* 231 Calls for Justice are often misinterpreted as solely pertaining to a select gender identity of First Nations people. However, the 231 Calls for Justice are meant to capture what is required to improve the circumstances for all First Nations people. Like many First Nations teachings, ensuring that the collective well-being is prioritized and maintained is of utmost importance.
- D. In 2023, over 450 MMIWG2S+ survivors, families and grassroots organizers participated in the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National MMIWG2S+ Gathering. Input from First Nations included the need to better support First Nations men, boys, and two-spirited people early on in their lives through prevention, mental and emotional health supports, and education. Their input was included in the report *Connecting Hearts and Making Change: Building on Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice*.
- E. First Nations men and boys are experiencing high rates of violence, murder, and are going missing at alarming rates. Statistics Canada data reports that in 2022, of the 849 police-reported homicide victims in Canada, 225 (27%) were Indigenous. Of the 156 First Nations homicide victims, 114 (73%) were First Nations men and boys.
- F. AFN Resolution 15/2023, *Support for Advocacy and the Establishment of a Working Group to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys*, provides the mandate for the AFN to advocate for equitable resources and funds for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys (MMIMB), advocate for solutions to address the disproportionate number of First Nations men and boys who go missing or are found murdered, and to work with the Attorney General/Minister of Justice, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and provincial and municipal police forces, to commit to devoting greater resources to investigate unsolved cases.
- G. In September 2023, the Dubois family, from the Pasqua First Nation, marched to Ottawa from Regina, Saskatchewan, for justice and in memory of Haven Dubois and Steven Dubois. The Dubois family is also calling on the federal government to launch a National Inquiry into Missing, Murdered, and Neglected Indigenous Men, Boys, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People. The Dubois family's stories are part of a larger story in Canada of Missing, Murdered and Neglected First Nations Men and Boys.
- H. Systemic and institutional racism and discrimination significantly contribute to the issue of MMIMB. For instance, between August 29, 2024, and September 27, 2024, it is reported that nine (9) First Nations individuals were killed during interactions with police and eight (8) of these individuals were First Nations men or boys.
- I. The AFN has a designated executive portfolio for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples (MMIWG2S+), a title which is not inclusive of the experiences of men and boys.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief and Executive Committee to take necessary steps to change the name of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (MMIWG2S+) Executive Portfolio to "Missing and Murdered First Nations Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (MMIWG2S+) and Missing and Murdered First Nations Boys and Men" (MMFNWG2S+ and MMFNBM) to be inclusive of First Nations men and boys.
2. Direct the AFN to advocate for new dedicated resources and funding to support work to address the issue of Missing and Murdered First Nations Men and Boys (MMFNMB).

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

3. Call upon the Minister of Justice/Attorney General of Canada, the provinces, the Department of Justice Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and provincial and municipal forces across Canada to commit to devoting greater resources to addressing MMFNMB, to take action to thoroughly investigate cases involving MMIFNB, and to urgently address the issue of police-related deaths of First Nations individuals.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

86 – 2024
Page 3 of 3



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 87/2024

TITLE:	Ensuring Fair and Equitable Inclusion of the Northwest Territories in the Child Welfare Compensation and Long-Term Reform Final Settlement Agreement
SUBJECT:	Children and Families
MOVED BY:	Chief April Martel, K'atl'odeeche First Nation (Hay River Dene Reserve), NT
SECONDED BY:	Chief Phillip Blake, Gwichya Gwich'in Dene First Nation, NT
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposition; 10 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms the following rights:
- i. Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 7(2), 11(1), 13(1), 15(2), 18, 19, 22(2), 37(1) and 43 – affirm the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination, including self-governance, in relation to children and their families, the right to free, prior and informed consent, and the right to be free from discrimination.
 - ii. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
 - iii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
- B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Calls to Action #1 to #5 call on federal, provincial and territorial governments to take actions to improve First Nations child and family services.
- C. The Child Welfare Compensation and Long-Term Reform Final Settlement Agreements were established to provide financial compensation to those Indigenous children and families who were impacted by the child welfare system in Canada.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

87 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- D. The Northwest Territories has been disproportionately historically impacted by the child welfare system in Canada, resulting in the separation of many Indigenous children from their families and cultural roots.
- E. The Northwest Territories has been excluded from the Child Welfare Compensation and Long-Term Reform Final Settlement Agreements, despite being impacted by this system.
- F. It is the duty and obligation of the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for the rights and interests of all Indigenous Nations across Canada and ensure that they are all equitably included in any agreements, or nation to nation treaties, or settlements concerning their peoples.

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

1. Call upon the Government of Canada to acknowledge and take action to address the historical impact of the child welfare system on Indigenous Children in the Northwest Territories.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call upon the Government of Canada to fairly and equitably include the Dene Nation First Nations of the Northwest Territories in the Child Welfare Compensation and Long-Term Reform Final Settlement Agreements.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 88/2024

TITLE: Implementing the Chiefs' Direction to End Canada's Discrimination in First Nations Child and Family Services

SUBJECT: Children and Families

MOVED BY: Chief Trevor Prince, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Jason Daniels, Swan Lake First Nation, MB

DECISION Carried; 70 opposed; 6 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations affirm the love we have for our children and our collective goal of ensuring that they grow up proud of who they are, able to speak their languages and free of the multi-generational burden of Canada's discrimination;
- B. First Nations honour the Residential School Survivors and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners who included child and family services and Jordan's Principle as the top Calls to Action;
- C. First Nations honour the Murdered and Missing Women and Girls and Members of the 2SLGBTQAI community who identified child and family services and Jordan's Principle as priorities in the MMIWG Final Report Calls to Justice;
- D. Canada's widespread and ongoing discrimination towards First Nations children through Residential Schools, the 60's Scoop and its contemporary underfunding of vital public services for First Nations fuel factors such as multi-generational trauma, addictions, poverty, poor housing and domestic violence that contribute to First Nations children going into care at 19.2 times higher rates than non-Indigenous children and other harms.
- E. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
 - i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

88 – 2024
Page 1 of 4

- ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
 - iii. Article 37: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honor and respect such treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements.
- F. In 2016 CHRT 2, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) substantiated a human rights complaint filed by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in 2007 regarding Canada's discriminatory and inequitable First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and its repeated failure to respect and implement Jordan's Principle named after Jordan River Anderson of Norway House Cree Nation. Canada was ordered to immediately cease its discriminatory conduct. Canada failed to do so and over 20 procedural and non-compliance orders have been issued to date.
- G. 2016 CHRT 2 and subsequent CHRT orders have confirmed that Canada must take account of the distinct circumstances of the child and family and ensure services are culturally appropriate.
- H. The parties (CHRT Parties) to the 2007 Canadian Human Rights Act complaint included:
- i. Complainant: AFN;
 - ii. Complainant: Caring Society;
 - iii. Commission: Canadian Human Rights Commission; and
 - iv. Interested Parties: Amnesty International (granted in 2009 to address international human rights law), Chiefs of Ontario (granted in 2009 respecting the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement), Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN): (Granted in 2016 regarding remoteness in NAN territory) and the BC Leadership Council (Granted 2024 respecting Jordan's Principle affecting First Nations in British Columbia).
- I. In December of 2023, Canada entered into confidential negotiations with some of the CHRT Parties hereinafter referred to as the FSA Parties: AFN, Chiefs of Ontario, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation to complete an FSA on child and family services while other CHRT Parties are not included (Caring Society, Canadian Human Rights Commission, and Amnesty International).
- J. The Caring Society was not a party as Canada had breached the Agreement in Principle (AIP) providing a framework for the negotiations by not complying with Jordan's Principle resulting in tragic harms and deaths of children. The Caring Society filed a non-compliance motion against Canada to address its failure to follow through on CHRT orders on Jordan's Principle – a step that was prohibited under the AIP framework.
- K. The negotiations failed to implement the direction of the First Nations-in-Assembly who adopted AFN Resolution 40/2022, *To Ensure Quality of Life to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordans Principle*, requiring that the CHRT parties retain the right to return to the Tribunal to address

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

Canada's discrimination, regional experts inform the draft FSA and that the Parties return with options for First Nations Leadership to consider.

- L. On July 11, 2024, the FSA Parties released an incomplete draft of the FSA (draft FSA) in English only. The French version followed about a month later. The FSA Parties did not entertain substantive amendments, and the proposed approach had significant flaws in governance, funding durability and security, and ensuring non-discrimination. Paragraph 45 of the draft FSA also provided for regional approaches, but Canada was not obligated to provide additional funding to ensure those regional variations that are essential to taking full account of the distinct circumstances of the child and ensure services are culturally appropriate.
- M. Contrary to Canada's obligations under Inherent rights, the UN Declaration and Treaty Rights, the draft FSA also required that First Nations cede their decision making over the reformed funding approach that would directly affect First Nations children to a secret committee.
- N. Paragraph 379 of the draft FSA required approval by First Nations Leadership. After conducting due diligence by consulting independent legal and child and family services experts, the First Nations-in-Assembly rejected the draft FSA and voted to reset the negotiation process.
- O. The Assembly of First Nations has not yet publicly and clearly agreed to implement the direction in the resolutions adopted by the First Nations-in-Assembly.

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

1. Call on Canada and direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to publicly and fully commit to respecting and following the direction of the First Nations-in Assembly arising from the rejection of Draft Resolution 01-2024, and adoption of Resolutions 60-2024 and 61-2024 at the Special Chief's Assembly held on Treaty 7 Territory on October 16-18, 2024.
2. Direct the AFN Executive to adopt an approach that:
 - a. Ensures that any new proposal for long term reform in First Nations child and family services provide for a national umbrella agreement to ensure non-discrimination with regional agreements that take full account of the distinct circumstances, cultures and the Inherent rights of the children and the First Nations they belong to; and
 - b. Ensures that such regional agreements are funded in a manner that safeguards First Nations children, youth and families from discrimination now and forever.
3. Urge Canada to discharge its duty to consult and AFN to reject any proposal to supplant and/or adversely affect Canada's duty to consult, Honor of the Crown and other obligations to First Nations.

Safeguarding First Nations rights and approval processes:

4. Direct the AFN to ensure that First Nations Chiefs and Proxies can vote on the Long-Term Reform (LTR) Agreements virtually, in-person, or by another means (via specific accommodation to a Chief or Proxy); to accommodate First Nations Leadership who are unable to attend in person due to community circumstances or emergencies; to ensure that no changes are to be made to the voting procedure, including quorum or approval thresholds; and not to undertake other measures that adversely affect the

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

direction given by the First Nations-in-Assembly at the meeting on October 16-18, 2024 on Treaty 7 territory.

5. Direct the AFN Executive to support the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to lead any process to achieve non-discrimination (also known as long term reform) for child and family services and Jordan's Principle in keeping with the Resolutions passed at the Special Chiefs Assembly on October 16-18, 2024.

Respect

6. Call on AFN to withdraw and apologize for any and all public statements that suggested or implied that First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies led the campaign to defeat the draft Final Settlement Agreement (FSA). Such comments are disrespectful of our front-line workers and of the Chiefs who exercised their due diligence to review the text of the draft FSA and rejected it on that basis alone.
7. Require AFN to get approval for any further public statements from the Children's Chief's Commission once established and by a public and majority vote of the Executive in the interim.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

CWoodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

88 – 2024
Page 4 of 4



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 89/2024

TITLE:	Renewing Negotiations Toward Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle
SUBJECT:	Children and Families
MOVED BY:	Khelsilem, Council Chairperson, Squamish Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Erica Beaudin, Cowessess First Nation, SK
DECISION	Carried; 74 opposed; 10 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
 - iii. Article 37: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements.
- B.** First Nations recognize the sacredness of First Nations children, youth and families and Jordan's Principle, a child-first legal requirement ensuring substantively equal and culturally appropriate access to products, services and supports for First Nations children and that the government entity of first contact pays for the support thereof without delay.
- C.** The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) filed a Canadian Human Rights Act complaint in 2007 alleging Canada's inequitable provision of First

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

89 – 2024
Page 1 of 5

Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and its choice not to implement Jordan's Principle were discriminatory resulting in serious and irreparable harms.

- D. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) substantiated the discrimination claim in 2016 CHRT 2 and ordered Canada to cease its discriminatory conduct immediately.
- E. On December 31, 2021, an Agreement in Principle (AIP) was signed as a framework for the negotiations of a Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on the FNCFS Program, Jordan's Principle, and the reform of Indigenous Services Canada.
- F. The CHRT Parties have agreed to split the FSA negotiations with a child and family services agreement to come first and an agreement on Jordan's Principle to follow.
- G. Canada, the AFN, Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) completed a draft Final Settlement Agreement, which was made public on July 11, 2024 in English only and on August 14, 2024 in French, and which was rejected by First Nations-in-Assembly on October 17, 2024.
- H. On October 18, 2024, the First Nations-in-Assembly rejected the resolution to adopt the draft FSA and adopted AFN Resolution 60/2024, *Addressing Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle* and AFN Resolution 61/2024, *Meaningful Consultation on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services*.
- I. Resolution 60/2024 directs the AFN Executive Committee to adopt the following approach to the negotiation of agreements related to the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle (the LTR Agreements):
 - i. Establish a national Children's Chiefs Commission with representation from all regions to oversee and provide strategic direction in relation to the LTR Agreement negotiations, reporting back to the First Nations-in-Assembly;
 - ii. The Children's Chiefs Commission will establish a negotiation team, with regional representation and a new legal team, that will be responsible for carrying out the negotiations for the LTR Agreements under the direction of, and reporting to, the Children's Chiefs Commission;
 - iii. The negotiation team's Terms of Reference for the FNCFS Program will be provided to the First Nations-in-Assembly for approval no later than December 2024; and
 - iv. The Children's Chiefs Commission will report to the First Nations-in-Assembly in December 2024 as to its anticipated timeframes for the completion of negotiations in relation to the FNCFS Program and on the anticipated timeframes for the Terms of Reference for Jordan's Principle.
- J. The 2021 Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) includes provisions that conflict with the negotiation priorities and directives established by the First Nations-in-Assembly, specifically:
 - i. the AIP's reliance on a population-based funding formula for prevention is inconsistent with the First Nations-in-Assembly's call for a needs-based funding structure to ensure equitable resource allocation;
 - ii. the AIP's proposed conflict resolution mechanism excludes the unconditional participation of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, contrary to the First Nations-in-Assembly's directive to include the Caring Society in all negotiations; and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

- iii. the AIP's stipulation that, upon signing a Final Settlement Agreement, the Parties will seek to terminate the jurisdiction of the CHRT directly opposes the First Nations-in-Assembly's call for the CHRT to retain jurisdiction to oversee and ensure the effective implementation of any agreement.
- K. A draft terms of reference for the Children's Chiefs Commission's has been developed, key elements of which include:
- i. **Accountability:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will be accountable to First Nations-in-Assembly, First Nations youth, and to First Nations who are not members of the AFN, through processes that it establishes;
 - ii. **Objectives:** the draft terms of reference set out certain substantive objectives that must be met through the negotiation of the LTR Agreements to fully eliminate Canada's systemic discrimination in FNCFS and Jordan's Principle and ensure it does not reoccur;
 - iii. **Guiding principles:** the draft terms of reference set out principles that will guide the Children's Chiefs Commission's work;
 - iv. **Composition:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will be comprised of: (i) one (1) regional representative, an alternate, and their technician(s) from each of the 11 AFN regions; (ii) one (1) regional representative, an alternate, and their technician(s) for every region not represented by AFN; (iii) an Elder/Knowledge Keeper representative; and (iv) and a youth representative;
 - v. **Inclusion and representation:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will take positive and effective measures to seek out the input and expertise of: (i) First Nations and their rightsholders; (ii) First Nations child and family service providers; (iii) Elders and Youth; (iv) The National Advisory Committee (NAC) and Expert Advisory Committee (EAC); (v) regional and independent experts, including the Jordan's Principle Operations Committee Caucus; and (vi) non-AFN member First Nations;
 - vi. **Reporting and accountability:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will regularly report to First Nations-in-Assembly, First Nations not represented by the AFN, and the AFN Executive on its progress in relation to the LTR Agreements;
 - vii. **Meetings:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will meet monthly or more frequently as and when required;
 - viii. **Decision-making:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will operate by consensus wherever possible in providing strategic direction and oversight of the LTR Agreements negotiations, respecting traditional First Nations decision-making processes;
 - ix. **Deliverables:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will present key deliverables to the First Nations-in-Assembly and First Nations who are not members of the AFN for their review, consideration, and approval; and
 - x. **Funding:** the Children's Chiefs Commission will work with Indigenous Services Canada to secure funding for their work including independent legal and technical assistance, ensuring all First Nations have adequate resources to understand and contribute to the LTR Agreements.
- L. A draft terms of reference for the negotiation team has also been developed, key elements of which include:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

- i. **Accountability:** the negotiation team will operate under the direction of the Children's Chiefs Commission and will be accountable to the First Nations-in-Assembly and First Nations not represented by the AFN;
 - ii. **Objectives:** the draft terms of reference set out certain substantive objectives that must be met through the negotiation of the LTR Agreements to fully eliminate Canada's systemic discrimination in FNCFS and Jordan's Principle and ensure it does not reoccur;
 - iii. **Deliverables:** the negotiation team will present key deliverables to the Children's Chiefs Commission for its review and consideration;
 - iv. **Composition and qualifications:** the draft terms of reference set out required qualifications for persons the Children's Chiefs Commission will appoint to the negotiation team;
 - v. **Inclusion and representation:** the negotiation team will take positive and effective measures to seek out the input and expertise of: (i) First Nations and their rightsholders; (ii) national and regional FNCFS and Jordan's Principle service providers and experts; (iii) Youth in and from Care; (iv) the National Advisory Committee (NAC) and Expert Advisory Committee (EAC); and (v) non-AFN member First Nations;
 - vi. **Roles and responsibilities:** the draft terms of reference sets out roles and responsibilities for a lead negotiator, assistant negotiator, legal team, technical experts, support team, and secretarial support;
 - vii. **Decision-making:** the negotiation team will operate by consensus wherever possible;
 - viii. **Reporting:** the draft terms of reference set out various reporting requirements and mechanisms for the negotiation team to report to the Children's Chiefs Commission;
 - ix. **Final draft approval process:** the draft terms of reference set out a process the negotiation team must follow to prepare draft LTR Agreements for review by the First Nations-in-Assembly as well as First Nations not represented by AFN to ensure compliance with Resolutions 60/2024 and 61/2024; and
 - x. **Conflicts of interest:** the draft terms of reference set out a process for addressing conflicts of interest.
- M. A number of AFN regions have appointed their representatives to the Children's Chiefs Commission, but the Commission has not yet met with all representatives present to review and discuss the draft terms of reference for the Children's Chiefs Commission and the negotiation team.
- N. The AFN Executive has raised certain legal concerns about the interpretation of Resolution 60/2024 that the First Nations-in-Assembly may wish to clarify.

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

1. Reject all sections of the Agreement in Principle (AIP) on Long-Term Reform (LTR) of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and Jordan's Principle completed on December 31, 2021 that are in conflict with resolutions passed by the First Nations-in-Assembly as described above.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

89 – 2024
Page 4 of 5

2. Clarify that, by way Therefore Be It Resolved clause 2 of Resolution 60/2024, the First Nations-in-Assembly called for, and themselves established, the national Children's Chiefs Commission rather than directing the AFN Executive Committee to establish the Commission.
3. Support the Children's Chiefs Commission in establishing a negotiation team, pursuant to Resolution 60/2024, to carry out the negotiations for the LTR Agreements. That negotiation team will work with the following guidelines:
 - a. **Accountability:** The negotiation team will report to the Children's Chiefs Commission, First Nations-in-Assembly and represent the interests of all First Nations, and First Nations youth, including those not connected to the AFN; and
 - b. **Mandate:** The negotiation team's goal is to eliminate discrimination by Canada and ensure it never happens again, promote fairness, uphold First Nations' rights to self-determination, and respect their jurisdiction over their own affairs. They will ensure their work aligns with international standards affirmed by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, complies with orders from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT), and maintains a clear, open process that meaningfully involves First Nations communities and First Nations youth.
4. Approve, in principle, the draft terms of reference for the Children's Chiefs Commission and the negotiation team, summarized in the Whereas clauses above, and direct the Children's Chiefs Commission to meet as soon as practicable to: (i) immediately commence its work on the LTR Agreements; and (ii) review the terms of reference and thereafter recommend them to the First Nations-in-Assembly for final approval, including any potential amendments.
5. Direct the Children's Chiefs Commission to report to First Nations-in-Assembly at every Assembly until their work is complete.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 90/2024

TITLE: Safeguarding First Nations Children and Holding Canada Accountable for its Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Legal Obligations

SUBJECT: Child Welfare

MOVED BY: Chief Vicky Chief, Timiskaming First Nation, QC

SECONDED BY: Aaron Nicholas, Proxy, Tobique First Nation, NB

DECISION Carried; 9 opposed; 12 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
 - iii. Article 37: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements.
- B.** The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) filed a *Canadian Human Rights Act* complaint in 2007 alleging Canada's inequitable provision of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and its choice not to implement Jordan's Principle were discriminatory resulting in serious and irremediable harms.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

90 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- C.** The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) substantiated the human rights complaint in 2016 and ordered Canada to cease its discriminatory practices, reform the FNCFS program and immediately implement the full scope of Jordan's Principle.
- D.** The Tribunal has retained jurisdiction over the human rights complaint and has provided numerous additional orders to guide a dialogic process through which the Parties to the complaint negotiate long-term reform that will end Canada's discrimination and prevent any reoccurrence of the discrimination.
- E.** Since 2016, the Tribunal has issued 31 procedural and non-compliance orders.
- F.** On December 12, 2023, the Caring Society filed a non-compliance motion with the Tribunal to address Canada's chronic breaches of existing orders on Jordan's Principle, causing serious harms to First Nations children, youth and families. The matter was heard on September 10-12, 2024.
- G.** First Nations-in-Assembly voted to reject a draft final settlement agreement (FSA) on long-term reform of the FNCFS program and called for a process to end Canada's discrimination in First Nations child and family services and Jordan's Principle and make sure it does not happen again in AFN Resolutions 60/2024 and 61/2024.
- H.** On November 21, 2024, the Tribunal issued a letter decision, with reasons to follow, on the Caring Society's non-compliance motion filed in December 2023 regarding the Government of Canada's breaches of existing Tribunal orders on Jordan's Principle.
- I.** In its November 21, 2024 ruling, the Tribunal affirmed the presumption of substantive equality as a right owed to First Nations children and ordered Canada to, among other measures, immediately address the backlogs in Jordan's Principle cases, set up triaging for urgent cases, confirm that First Nations who have taken on Jordan's Principle work have the sufficient resources to do so, reimburse approved Jordan's Principle requests in a timely manner, report on its progress in coordinating federal programs and work with the Parties to install an interim and independent national complaints mechanism.
- J.** The Tribunal also ordered Canada to consult with the Parties on several issues, with the goal of reaching consent order requests, and recognized that it would be beneficial to have all Parties at the table, including First Nations who are not a part of the proceedings.
- K.** The British Columbia First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), which was granted interested party status and intervened in the non-compliance motion, can only participate in these consultations with the consent of all Parties. On December 4, 2024, Canada has responded that they do not consent to the FNLC participation in the consultations.
- L.** The cumulative total of the Tribunal's orders on FNCFS is estimated at \$45 billion to fund FNCFS and is the minimum amount to ensure non-discrimination and prevent its recurrence.
- M.** All First Nations children on and off reserve and living in self-governing First Nations have a right to receive substantively equal and culturally based child and family services and/or Jordan's Principle and live free of Canada's discrimination now and forever.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

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

1. Support the November 21, 2024, Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal) letter decision on Jordan's Principle to address Canada's non-compliance.
2. Confirm that the \$47.8 billion is only the floor for negotiations to achieve long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS).
3. Direct Canada to obtain a new negotiation mandate within thirty (30) days of this resolution passing to achieve Long Term Reform of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle in full alignment with Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolutions 60/2024 and 61/2024.
4. Support regions, parties and the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) to undertake any legal action should Canada fail to obtain an adequate new negotiation mandate within thirty (30) days, in which case the First Nations-in-Assembly will deem Canada to be dishonorably in violation of the duty of diligent implementation flowing from the honour of the Crown constitutional principle.
5. Call on Canada to provide adequate funding, including reimbursement of legal fees at actual cost, to an entity(ies) determined by the NCCC to support its work.
6. Call on Canada to not seek judicial review of the November 21, 2024 Tribunal letter decision on Canada's non-compliance on Jordan's Principle.
7. Call on Canada to take immediate and effective measures to fully implement all Tribunal orders including the November 21, 2024 Tribunal letter decision on Jordan's Principle.
8. Support the NCCC participation in further legal proceedings, including before the Tribunal, to ensure First Nations children, youth and families receive the full benefit of existing Tribunal orders and to seek additional remedies as required.
9. Fully and publicly support the British Columbia First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) participation in the consultations ordered in the November 21, 2024 Tribunal letter decision on Canada's non-compliance on Jordan's Principle, as well as any request, from any other regions, to seek interested party status in this Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case.
10. Call on Canada to retract their opposition, and to support the FNLC participation in the consultations ordered by the Tribunal in the November 21, 2024 letter decision on Jordan's Principle.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 91/2024

TITLE: First Nations indicators of Poverty and Wellness

SUBJECT: Social Development; Data

MOVED BY: Chief Derek Nepinak, Pine Creek First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk (Nelson House First Nation), MB

DECISION Carried; 7 opposed; 16 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. 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.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B.** Canada has committed to implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal number one of the agenda is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere.” In 2018, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) released the first Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The strategy does not account for the unique experiences of First Nations experiencing poverty, or the systemic gaps and barriers further perpetuating First Nations poverty.
- C.** Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 47/2018, *First Nations Oversight of Canada’s National Poverty Reduction Strategy*, directs the AFN to work with ESDC on the implementation of Canada’s National PRS in First Nations. The AFN was not provided funding to complete this work, resulting in a PRS that does not utilize the culturally appropriate, multi-faceted approach needed for mitigating and ending First Nations poverty.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

91 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- D. In response to the AFN not receiving funding to fulfill the Resolution 47/2028 mandate, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 98/2019, *Poverty Reduction for all First Nations in Canada*, mandating the AFN to advocate to the federal government to provide long-term and sustainable funding for Canada's PRS, and seek funding to conduct a study on First Nations-specific indicators and measures of poverty and wellbeing.
- E. In December 2021, the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) was contracted to undertake research to develop First Nations indicators of poverty and well-being and develop deliverables for understanding, measuring, and addressing poverty in First Nations, including co-development of First Nation-specific indicators and measures of poverty.
- F. In October 2022, the IFSD hosted an expert forum on poverty with regional First Nations representation, intended to define First Nations poverty and identify First Nations indicators of poverty to capture the experience of poverty in First Nations. Consensus was built around 8 dimensions and 39 selected indicators as a starting point to capture deprivation and to measure change. The 8 dimensions and the selected indicators include:
- i. Housing: safe and suitable housing, number of people in a dwelling, number of transition homes on-reserve.
 - ii. Education: high school completion rate, literacy rates, numeracy rates, highest degree attained, First Nation or entity offering land-based programming for youth.
 - iii. Food Security: rate of food insecure households, presence of food security programs in community, access to traditional foods, water advisories, potable water from source to tap;
 - iv. Health: rate of chronic disease, access to health services in community, mental health and wellness, rates of substance misuse, access to addiction treatment, percentage of people foregoing health services for any reason.
 - v. Employment: participation rate, employment rate, unemployment rate, number of band-offered jobs, jobs with a livable income in-community, First Nations community corporation-offered jobs, instances of unpaid care/work, self-declared skills gap.
 - vi. Income: percentage of population receiving income assistance, and total median household income.
 - vii. Early Childhood Education: availability of early childhood education in community, number of children in care, access to childcare.
 - viii. Culture: adult opportunities to learn Indigenous language, youth opportunities to learn Indigenous language, adult opportunities for land-based activities, youth opportunities for land-based activities, access to cultural ceremonies in community, desire to have access to cultural ceremonies in community, and presence of knowledge keepers in community.
- G. Findings in the IFSD's final research report highlight significant gaps in the collection and availability of data for the First Nations-identified indicators. First Nations continue to advocate for resources to strengthen data collection and access for the purpose of enhancing budget and program advocacy to ensure measures of poverty are culturally relevant, qualitative and encompass a First Nations-specific data narrative.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chaxelhouse

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

1. Endorse the First Nations indicators for poverty and wellness as determined by First Nations and as outlined in section Whereas F of this resolution, in order to shift the understanding and measurement of First Nations poverty away from a narrow financial-based measure and toward a holistic and culturally appropriate approach.
2. Call upon Canada to fund the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and its Technical Working Group on Social Development to oversee a data collection pilot project in partnership with First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) and emerging networks of First Nations regional Information Governance Centres to collect data on the indicators that do not have available data, and sample the First Nations indicators of poverty and wellness in selected First Nations, including sustainable financial resources and capacity for the selected First Nations to participate with ease.
3. Direct the AFN's Technical Working Group on Social Development to identify willing First Nations within their respective regions to participate in the data collection pilot project. The selected First Nations must reflect diverse socio-economic realities and include northern and remote areas.
4. Direct the AFN to report back to First Nations-in-Assembly on the progress of the data collection pilot project by December 2025.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chixelhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

91 – 2024
Page 3 of 3

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 92/2024

TITLE: **Renewed Capacity-Building Funding Commitment for *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families***

SUBJECT: Social Programs; Child Welfare

MOVED BY: Chief Derek Nepinak, Pine Creek First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk (Nelson House First Nation), MB

DECISION Carried; 7 opposed; 16 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. Co-developed with First Nations, the federal law, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Act) came into effect on January 1, 2020.
- B. The purpose of the Act is to:
 - i. Affirm the inherent right of self-government for Indigenous peoples, which includes jurisdiction in relation to child and family services.
 - ii. Contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - iii. Set out principles, as well as minimum national standards that must be adhered to in the delivery of child and family services for all Indigenous children in Canada regardless of their residence.
 - iv. Provide a framework and pathway for Indigenous peoples to establish their own laws for child welfare.
- C. The Act is intended to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare system in Canada. Indigenous children make up 53.8% of the children in foster care, but they account for only 7.7% of the total child population in Canada (Census 2021).
- D. In July 2020, Canada announced a funding commitment of \$542 million over five years, starting in the 2020-21 fiscal year, to support the implementation of the Act. This includes \$425 million over five years for capacity-building funding for Indigenous Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chuxhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

92 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- E. In March 2021, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) issued a call for proposals for capacity building funding. This funding is meant to support Nations in building capacity in preparation for exercising jurisdiction over child and family services prior to entering into coordination agreement discussions.
- F. As of September 13, 2024, through the proposal process, ISC reported that nationally 238 Indigenous governing bodies received \$233,275,060.87 in funding for capacity-building activities under the Act.
- G. The 2024-25 fiscal year is the final year of Canada's five-year commitment to provide capacity-building funding.
- H. In the 2024 federal budget, the government has committed to invest \$1.3 billion over five years, starting in the 2023-24 fiscal year, to continue supporting Indigenous Nations to implement the Act. However, this funding commitment does not include any mention of capacity-building funding.
- I. To ensure that Indigenous Nations continue to build capacity in preparation for exercising jurisdiction in child welfare, it is imperative that Canada continue to provide capacity-building funding.

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

1. Call on the federal government to renew its commitment to provide capacity-building funding to Indigenous Nations over five years, beginning in the 2025-26 fiscal year, to support the implementation of the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families*.
2. Call on the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to commit to provide capacity-building funding to Indigenous Nations.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate to the Minister of ISC to ensure that Canada commits to provide capacity-building funding to Indigenous Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

92 – 2024
Page 2 of 2



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 93/2024

TITLE:	Extending the Age of Eligibility for Jordan's Principle from the Age of Majority to 30 Years of Age
SUBJECT:	Social Programs; Jordan's Principle
MOVED BY:	Chief Derek Nepinak, Pine Creek First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk (Nelson House First Nation), MB
DECISION	Carried; 7 opposed; 16 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
 - ii. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. Article 22 (1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

93 – 2024
Page 1 of 4

- vi. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. Jordan's Principle, named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a Cree child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, is a legal rule that obligates the federal government to ensure First Nations children have substantive equality, and that there are no gaps in publicly funded health, social, and education programs, services, and supports.
- C. First Nations children from birth to the age of majority in the province or territory of their residence are currently eligible for Jordan's Principle. However, there are currently no provisions for services and supports beyond the age of majority under Jordan's Principle, which is a significant gap for youth transitioning into young adulthood.
- D. When First Nations youth reach the age of majority, they may not have access to the same level of support and services as they may have been eligible to receive under Jordan's Principle. This may have a negative impact on their health, education, and overall well-being.
- E. The transition from adolescence to young adulthood can be challenging for First Nations youth, who often encounter systemic barriers and disparities. Extending eligibility for Jordan's Principle to 30 years of age would allow First Nations youth the ability to access the necessary supports and resources to achieve self-sufficiency and thrive as young adults.
- F. In 2016 CHRT 2, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ordered Canada to immediately cease its discriminatory practices regarding First Nations child welfare, to reform the First Nations child welfare program, to cease applying a narrow definition of Jordan's Principle, and to adopt measures to implement the full meaning and scope of Jordan's Principle.
- G. In 2017, the CHRT further ordered that the needs of each individual child must be considered, and that Jordan's Principle must ensure substantive equality, provide culturally appropriate services, and safeguard the best interests of the child.
- H. In 2021 CHRT 41, the CHRT found that the Government of Canada was discriminating against First Nations children by failing to provide them with the same level of services as other Canadian children. The CHRT ordered Canada to fund the purchase and construction of capital assets for the delivery of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle.
- I. Pursuant to the Agreement-in Principle on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle, signed December 31, 2021, Canada agreed to:
- i. Fund post-majority support services for First Nations youth "aging out" of care to the age of 25 at the actual cost of delivering services/supports, as determined by the First Nation or First Nations Agency.
 - ii. Assess the resources required to assist families with navigating access to additional supports past the age of majority for high needs youth accessing Jordan's Principle.
- J. Both of these funding commitments were further ordered on consent by the CHRT in 2022 CHRT 8.
- K. Recent Assembly of First Nations resolutions on Jordan's Principle include:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

- i. Resolution 62/2016, *Full and Proper Implementation of the Historic Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Decisions in the Provision of Child Welfare Service and Jordan's Principle*;
 - ii. Resolution 27/2018, *Support for the long-term implementation of Jordan's Principle*;
 - iii. Resolution 04/2022, *First Nations Determination of the Reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle Ordered through the 2022 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Ruling 8*;
 - iv. Resolution 40/2022, *To Ensure Quality of Life to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle*;
 - v. Resolution 83/2023, *Continuation of Funding at Actuals for Capital for Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle*;
 - vi. Resolution 84/2023, *Continuation of Funding at Actuals for Post-Majority Support Services and Support for High Needs Jordan's Principle Recipients*; and
 - vii. Resolution 86/2023, *To Ensure Quality of Life to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle*.
- L. Jordan's Principle ensures that all First Nations children have access to necessary services. Cessation of services and resources for those over the age of majority to the age of 30 without the provision of the necessary infrastructure for transition will harm youth who reach the age of majority and are still in need. The provision of the necessary resources and supports under Jordan's Principle to First Nations for youth to the age of 30 supports the creation of infrastructure to support youth aging into adulthood.
- M. Other federal programs and services are often not adequate to meet the needs of First Nations youth aging out of Jordan's Principle, and reforms to better meet these needs outside of Jordan's Principle are necessary. For example: enhancing the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, or expanding funding for educational supports under the Post-Secondary Student Support Program.
- N. Failure to address these issues could lead to similar compensation requirements as seen in 2019 CHRT 39, where the Tribunal found that the Canadian government had discriminated against First Nations children by failing to provide them with the same level of services as other Canadian children and ordered Canada to pay the maximum allowable compensation.
- O. Recent funding directives from the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Manitoba regional office have led First Nations to incur significant costs for delivering Jordan's Principle services. However, many of these expenses remain unreimbursed, creating financial instability and jeopardizing the ability of First Nations to continue providing essential services to children, youth, and families.
- P. These funding challenges, coupled with ISC's inadequate communication and delayed approvals, contravene the CHRT's rulings, which mandate the equitable and timely provision of Jordan's Principle services without placing undue financial burdens on First Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

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

1. Call on the Government of Canada to extend the age of eligibility for Jordan's Principle to 30.
2. Call on the Government of Canada to continue to uphold their commitment for Jordan's Principle and end discriminatory practices against First Nations children as they transition into adulthood.
3. Call on the Government of Canada to provide long-term and sustainable funding for First Nations youth transitioning into young adulthood under Jordan's Principle, including funding for supports such as improving the navigation of available services within Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and First Nations, and capacity-building for Service Coordinators.
4. Call on the Government of Canada to reform social, health, and education programs for First Nations adults to ensure long-term and sustainable resources for all First Nations throughout the life cycle.
5. Urgently call on the Government of Canada to ensure that First Nations are reimbursed promptly and fully for all costs incurred in delivering Jordan's Principle services, particularly those incurred as a result of ISC regional office directives.
6. Demand that the Government of Canada immediately revise its funding policies and processes under Jordan's Principle to prevent future funding shortfalls and delays, ensuring that First Nations receive adequate resources to meet the growing needs of children, youth, and families.
7. Call on the Government of Canada to establish transparent and timely communication mechanisms between ISC and First Nations, ensuring that critical information and decisions regarding Jordan's Principle are communicated directly, effectively, and without delay.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

93 – 2024
Page 4 of 4



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 94/2024

TITLE:	Ensuring Transparency, Fair Representation, and Accountability in the Settlement Implementation Committee
SUBJECT:	Social Programs; Child and Family Services
MOVED BY:	Chief Derek Nepinak, Pine Creek First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk (Nelson House First Nation), MB
DECISION	Carried; 7 opposed; 16 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) filed a discrimination claim in 2007 alleging Canada's inequitable provision of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and its choice not to implement Jordan's Principle were discriminatory and resulted in harms including the removal of children from their families and communities and the delay/denial of critical services.
- B. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) substantiated the discrimination claim in 2016 CHRT 2 and ordered Canada to immediately cease its discriminatory conduct.
- C. In 2019, the CHRT awarded \$40,000 to each eligible victim of Canada's discrimination.
- D. In 2019, two class actions were filed, including one by the Assembly of First Nations that dated back to 1991.
- E. On June 30, 2022, Canada and the class action parties, including the AFN, announced a Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) in the amount of \$20 billion.
- F. Upon a review of the FSA, it was found that while the FSA offered compensation to a wider range of victims dating back to 1991, it also disintitiled some victims of their CHRT compensation and reduced the amounts for others.
- G. The CHRT dismissed a motion by the AFN and Canada to approve the FSA as fully satisfying the CHRT's compensation orders due to the derogations from the CHRT orders that adversely affected some victims.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

94 – 2024
Page 1 of 2

- H. Through AFN Resolution 28/2022, *Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families*, the First Nations-in-Assembly provided direction that the FSA be renegotiated to include all the victims to the value of the compensation they were entitled to and that the AFN return to the First Nations-in-Assembly to provide regular progress reports and seek direction on any outstanding implementation issues.
- I. In April of 2023, through AFN Resolution 04/2023, *Revised Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families*, the First Nations-in-Assembly approved a Revised FSA and directed the AFN to expedite approval by the CHRT and Federal Court, as well as to ensure that compensation would be paid as quickly as possible to the victims of Canada's discrimination. It directed the AFN to return to the First Nations-in-Assembly to provide regular progress reports on supports, implementation and the claims process and seek direction where required.
- J. The Revised FSA was subsequently approved by the CHRT and Federal Court.
- K. Article 12 of the Revised FSA provides for a Settlement Implementation Committee (SIC) composed of five persons: 2 First Nations members (Non-Counsel Members) selected through a solicitation of applications process conducted by the AFN Executive Committee and 3 Counsel Members - one of which is appointed by the AFN Executive Committee.
- L. The AFN conducted a Request for Proposals, culminating in the selection by the AFN Executive Committee for the AFN appointments of Stuart Wuttke, AFN General Counsel (Counsel Member), Derek Nepinak (Non-Counsel Member for an initial term of three years) and Duke Pelletier (Non-Counsel Member for an initial term of five years).
- M. On November 16, 2023, the Federal Court approved the AFN appointments, as well as non-AFN class Counsel Members David Sterns and Robert Kugler.
- N. The FSA is expected to have a direct impact of unprecedented magnitude on the lives of First Nations children, their families, and their communities and accordingly, the SIC should consider a diverse number of perspectives in the context of their decision-making.

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

1. Call on the Settlement Implementation Committee (SIC) to establish an Advisory Sub-Committee on Compensation composed of diverse First Nations persons, including Elders, women, youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons, and differently abled persons that are representative of Assembly of First Nations (AFN) regions and who have expertise in Jordan's Principle administration, First Nations child, youth and family related services, or related health and wellness services.
2. Direct the AFN Executive Committee to consider the principle of diversity including Elders, women, youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons, and persons with different abilities in future appointments of AFN SIC members.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 95/2024

TITLE: First Nations Leadership in Impact Assessment

SUBJECT: Environment; Impact Assessment

MOVED BY: Chief Terry Richardson, Pabineau First Nation, NB

SECONDED BY: Michael LeBourdais, Proxy, Tzeachten First Nation, BC

DECISION Carried; 1 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- ii. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- iii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
- iv. Article 32 (3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

B. Since 2016 the First Nations-in-Assembly have passed ten resolutions concerning the law and policy making processes relating to the *Impact Assessment Act*, SC 2019, C. 28 (IAA or the Act) including, most

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

95 – 2024
Page 1 of 4

recently: Resolution 06/2019, *Respecting First Nations inherent and constitutionally-protected rights in the Project List for the Impact Assessment Act*; Resolution 69/2018, *First Nations Full, Direct, and Unfettered Participation in Bill C-69 including Regulatory and Policy Co-Development*; and Resolution 07/2018, *Addressing First Nations Rights, Title, and Jurisdiction in Bill C-69: Impact Assessment Act, Canadian Energy Regulator Act, and the Navigation Protection Act*.

- C. Following a period of two and a half years throughout which First Nations participated in a House of Commons committee, a Senate committee, two expert panels, a federal discussion paper, and in-person technical sessions, *Bill C-69, An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts* received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019.
- D. The IAA does not apply in the Yukon or Northwest Territories, except to those lands within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region within the Northwest Territories. Rather, the *Yukon Socioeconomic Assessment Act*, SC 2003, c. 7, and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, SC 1998, c. 25 govern environmental and socioeconomic assessment of certain projects and activities within the Yukon and Northwest Territories, respectively.
- E. The Dene Nation in the Northwest Territories downstream of projects in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan are not included in the impact or environmental assessment of such projects. However, it is important to ensure that the Treaty, Inherent, and Aboriginal rights and interests of the Dene Nation in the Northwest Territories, as well as Yukon First Nations, are protected within the transboundary lands subject to project development.
- F. On October 13, 2023, the Supreme Court of Canada issued an opinion, *Reference re Impact Assessment Act* (“SCC Opinion”), on constitutional challenges to the IAA raised by the Province of Alberta. A majority of the Court found most of the IAA and its underlying regulations to be unconstitutional because it was outside the scope of federal jurisdiction.
- G. On June 20, 2024, the *Budget Implementation Act, 2024*, received Royal Assent and brought into force amendments to the IAA that were made in response to the SCC Opinion. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) has indicated they will review and update regulations, policies, procedures and guidance documents that need to be updated following amendment to the IAA.
- H. Five years after the IAA entered into force, First Nations, the Government of Canada, the IAAC, and proponents have gained experience with the Act and its requirements and processes. First Nations across Canada are strengthening their capacity to participate in and lead impact assessments.
- I. The IAAC has initiated a 5-year review of the *Physical Activities Regulation* (Project List), as required by the IAA, and a draft regulation with amendments is expected to be released in *Canada Gazette I* in Spring/Summer 2025. Further, the IAAC has initiated engagement on Indigenous Co-Administration of federal impact assessment. The IAA contains a new provision enabling the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to enter into agreements with Indigenous Governing Bodies to authorize the Indigenous Governing Body to exercise powers, duties or functions related to impact assessment on lands specified in the agreement. These agreements would enable Canada and First Nations to formally share governance and decision-making at key points throughout the impact assessment process. There is a self-imposed limitation in the IAA, requiring that a regulation must be adopted before these agreements can be negotiated.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chixelhouse.

- J. There are a growing number of First Nations leading their own assessments of major projects in their territories pursuant to First Nations laws and protocols. First Nation-led assessments can inform whether a community provides or withholds free, prior and informed consent for a project and the IAA requires the federal impact assessment to consider these First Nation-led assessments.

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

1. Urge the Government of Canada to implement the changes proposed by First Nations in their calls for improvements to the *Physical Activities Regulation* (Project List) in order to ensure that projects that may impact First Nations Inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction, including but not limited to in-situ oil sands projects, nuclear projects, and small nuclear reactors, remain subject to federal impact assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).
2. Call on the Government of Canada to, in partnership with First Nations, amend the IAA to bring it in line with the minimum standards articulated in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), including free, prior, and informed consent. For clarity, any amendments to the IAA must include and uphold the free, prior, and informed consent of the Dene Nation and Yukon First Nations on any projects occurring in provinces that have transboundary impact on those respective Nations.
3. Call on the Government of Canada, in the implementation of the IAA to:
 - a. Uphold its commitments under the UN Declaration;
 - b. Utilize joint development processes to strengthen consultation and collaboration with First Nations for any future regulatory or policy development under the IAA;
 - c. Ensure that any future amendments, regulations or policies maintain or enhance the existing protections and opportunities for First Nations in federal impact assessment;
 - d. Promptly adopt *Indigenous Co-Administration Agreement Regulations* to enable the negotiation of co-administration agreements with those First Nations who wish to pursue them;
 - e. Prioritize capacity support for First Nations and allocate a specific funding envelope to support First Nation-led impact assessments;
 - f. Recognize, respect, implement and enforce First Nation-led impact assessments where First Nations have taken self-determined action to adopt and apply their own process;
 - g. Ensure that the requirement to conduct a federal impact assessment is maintained for all major projects that have the potential to impact the rights and interests of First Nations, including those projects that are deemed to be “clean” or “green” or necessary for the transition to net-zero energy;
 - h. Ensure the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada continues to have a role in assessing nuclear projects; and
 - i. Provide adequate funding directly to First Nations to support their full, direct, and unfettered participation in joint regulatory and policy drafting processes under the IAA.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

4. Call on the Government of Canada to consult the Dene of the Northwest Territories in regard to all projects upstream of Denendeh.
5. Call on the Assembly of First Nations to:
 - a. Share information and facilitate dialogue with First Nations to support joint development of regulations and policies related to federal impact assessment;
 - b. Convene a community of practice with First Nations leaders, technicians, representatives, academics, and practitioners with experience in First Nation-led impact assessment to share experiences and lessons in First Nation-led impact assessment;
 - c. Develop a toolkit to support First Nations in their work to adopt their own impact assessment procedures, processes, and requirements, while building on existing First Nations-led toolkits;
 - d. Advocate for the maintenance, as a baseline, of the protections and opportunities for collaboration afforded to First Nations in the current version of the IAA, and that any changes in law, policy or regulation must preserve or strengthen the current protections for the rights and interests of First Nations; and
 - e. Issue a letter of support regarding Treaty Six First Nations' request to add carbon capture and storage projects, specifically the "Pathways" project, to the list of designated projects requiring a federal impact assessment by December 20, 2024.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 96/2024

TITLE:	Advancing First Nations-Led Marine Conservation and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
SUBJECT:	Environment; Water
MOVED BY:	Chief Terry Richardson, Pabineau First Nation, NB
SECONDED BY:	Michael LeBourdais, Proxy, Tzeachten First Nation, BC
DECISION	Carried; 1 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 25: Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and use lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
 - ii. Article 29 (1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of their environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
 - iii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - iv. Article 32 (3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

96 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- B.** On June 21, 2023, the Government of Canada released its action plan to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. This plan included Action Plan Measures aimed at supporting First Nations-led conservation initiatives, such as Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas:
- i.** Action Plan Measure 38 commits the department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to provide predictable and flexible funding to ensure First Nations have the capacity to meaningfully participate in advisory, co-management, and decision-making processes tied to fisheries, aquatic resources and oceans management.
 - ii.** Action Plan Measure 42 commits DFO to advance marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas through meaningful consultation, collaboration, and partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, supporting Canada's commitments to reconciliation and marine conservation.
- C.** Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 41/2021, *Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas*, calls on the Government of Canada to actively support First Nations in establishing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) across inland, coastal, and marine waters. This includes adopting a whole-of-government approach, dedicating resources to enhance capacity-building, and facilitating the full participation of First Nations in all aspects of marine governance, including policy, regulations, and legislation decision-making processes.
- D.** In February 2023, the AFN released a report entitled *Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas: Opportunities and recommendations for realizing Canada's commitments to reconciliation in marine conservation* (the Marine IPCA Report), which included 21 recommendations that provide a clear pathway for DFO to follow in removing barriers that prevent First Nations from establishing IPCAs.
- E.** Since the release of the Marine IPCA Report and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan, DFO has made only limited progress in supporting First Nations-led marine conservation. This lack of action is stalling urgent efforts to safeguard First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights, putting both the environment and the recognition of First Nations' sovereignty at risk.
- F.** First Nations consistently point out that two key impediments to progress in advancing First Nations-led conservation are a lack of resources and the limitations of Canada's legal and policy frameworks. These barriers also prevent meaningful First Nations participation in federal marine governance, including policy and legislative processes. Their participation is crucial to ensuring that First Nations' rights, jurisdiction, and laws are respected.
- G.** Despite the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan Measure 38 that commits to providing predictable and flexible funding for First Nations, no new dedicated funding was included in the Government of Canada's *Budget 2024: Fairness for Every Generation*.
- H.** First Nations demand adequate support, resources, and capacity-building tools to advance their marine stewardship and conservation initiatives, including IPCAs, independent of federal processes.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Woodhouse

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to continue to collaborate with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), to ensure that the 21 recommendations listed in *Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas: Opportunities and recommendations for realizing Canada's commitments to reconciliation in marine conservation* (the 2023 Marine IPCA Report) are fully implemented.
2. Urge the DFO to fully implement the 21 recommendations from the 2023 Marine IPCA Report, with predictable and flexible funding to empower First Nations in advisory, co-management, and decision-making processes related to fisheries, aquatic resources, and ocean management; and to advance these protected areas through meaningful consultation, collaboration, and partnerships with First Nations, in support of Canada's commitments to reconciliation and marine conservation.
3. Call on the DFO to create a cross-departmental leadership committee, including representatives from the AFN and DFO fisheries management and marine conservation, operations, science, and policy, to support the implementation of the 2023 Marine IPCA Report recommendations and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan Measures for which DFO is responsible, and ensure that First Nations perspectives actively inform marine conservation programs, policies, and legislation.
4. Direct the AFN to develop capacity-building tools related to First Nations-led conservation that are reflective of the diversity of First Nations from coast to coast to coast with the guidance of the Chiefs Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment and other technical bodies as required.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

50, rue O'Connor, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 3, 4, 5, 2024, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 97/2024

TITLE: Reaffirming Support for the Joint Committee on Climate Action

SUBJECT: Climate Action

MOVED BY: Chief Terry Richardson, Pabineau First Nation, NB

SECONDED BY: Michael LeBourdais, Proxy, Tzeachten First Nation, BC

DECISION Carried; 1 opposed; 5 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - ii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - iii. Article 32 (3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
- B.** The climate crisis represents an enormous risk that continues to alter First Nations' relationships with the lands the Creator has bestowed upon them and upon which First Nations have Inherent and Treaty rights as entrenched in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, reaffirmed in the UN Declaration, and grounded in Treaties and other constructive arrangements between First Nations and the Crown.
- C.** In December 2016, First Ministers (the Prime Minister and all Premiers across the country) adopted the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF), the country's first pan-Canadian climate plan. Key to the PCF is the agreement between federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize, respect, and safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Chexhouse.

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

97 – 2024
Page 1 of 3

- D. Following this, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Prime Minister issued a "Process Document for Ongoing Engagement on the PCF", outlining a process to establish a Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA), in order to "...contribute to, and advise the AFN and Canada on, real and meaningful approaches that support meaningful and sustained engagement between the Government of Canada and First Nations on issues related to climate change based on the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and the standard of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)."
- E. Through AFN Resolution 22/2017, *Joint Committee on Climate Action*, the First Nations-in-Assembly supported the establishment of the JCCA and ensuring that First Nations are fully included within discussions on the PCF and other federal climate priorities.
- F. The Government of Canada must ensure that the use of a Framework for the Management of Risk (the Framework) is applied as one of the three core frameworks guiding Treasury Board policies and management instruments as regards the impacts of climate change on First Nations.
- G. The Framework provides principles to embed risk management as a critical element in all areas of work and at all levels of organization.
- H. The primary purpose of the Framework is to equip the federal government and its organizations to respond proactively to change and uncertainty by using risk-based approaches and information to enable more effective decision-making.
- I. The Government of Canada must ensure that all frameworks associated with the identification and management of risk fully recognize and incorporate the rights, title, and interests of the First Nations of Canada.
- J. The Government of Canada has yet to develop a cost-benefit analysis model to measure and effectively manage risks to First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights nationally and internationally resulting from the effects of climate change.
- K. AFN Resolution 38/2024, *Amending the Statutory Instruments Act and Cabinet Directive on Regulation to Require Assessment of a Regulation's Impacts on First Nations*, calls on the federal government to work with First Nations where a proposed regulation may infringe on the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- L. The JCCA has prepared Annual Reports for the past six years for consideration by the Prime Minister and the AFN National Chief.
- M. The Prime Minister and National Chief have yet to meet to review the JCCA's findings and recommendations, including the outcomes of a five-year review.
- N. Alongside this work, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 36/2023, *Urgent and Transformative Climate Action through the AFN National Climate Strategy*, reaffirming the declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency and endorsing the AFN National Climate Strategy.
- O. In 2022, the advocacy of the JCCA led to a federal commitment of \$29.3 million over three years to support the development of a First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCLA). The process is now concluding, with the expected submission of a Memorandum to Cabinet in Fall 2024.
- P. Through AFN Resolution 25/2024, *Advocating for an ambitious, fully funded, and implemented First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCLA)*, the First Nations-in-Assembly called on Canada to ensure the full, direct, transparent, and unfettered participation of First Nations in the finalization of the First

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

Nations Climate Leadership process, including in the Memorandum to Cabinet and Treasury Board submission.

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

1. Call on the Prime Minister and National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to consider the recommendations in the Annual Reports of the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) as the basis for joint AFN-Canada climate action, with proposed biennial meetings to review progress.
2. Direct the AFN to ensure discussions at the JCCA reflect the priorities set out in the AFN National Climate Strategy, as well as those identified by First Nations by way of resolution.
3. Call on the Government of Canada to commit to fully implementing and funding the recommendations identified within the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCLA), including regional-specific recommendations.
4. Call on the Government of Canada to ensure that discussions from the JCCA, as well as from First Nations rights- and title-holders, are mainstreamed across all federal departments working on climate change related work, including the development of new policy and regulatory guidance.
5. Direct the JCCA to work with First Nations rights- and title-holders to break down the siloes in relevant federal departments and to take a whole-of-government approach to implement the recommendations outlined in the FNCLA in its federal climate policy.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2024 in Ottawa, ON

Cindy Woodhouse

CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF

97 – 2024
Page 3 of 3