
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**Annual General Assembly
July 5, 6, 7, 2022, Vancouver, BC**

Resolution no. 06/2022

TITLE: A New Economic Deal for First Nations via a National Prosperity Table

SUBJECT: Economic Reconciliation and Development

MOVED BY: Chief Marcus Hardy, Red Rock Indian Band, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Terrence Richardson, Pabineau First Nation, NB

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

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 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.
 - iii. Article 26 (2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories, and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
 - 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.

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- v. 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. Truth and Reconciliation must include economic reconciliation.
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #92 is directed at Canada's corporate sector and its leadership "to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources."
- D. The 2022 federal budget earmarked \$11 billion for Indigenous Peoples and of that, only 1.3% is dedicated to economic development.
- E. The federal budget process undermines reconciliation through the exclusion of First Nations, resulting in persistent underfunding of programs and services.
- F. First Nations require a new economic deal that will assure access to the wealth derived from and upon our lands, territories, or resources.
- G. In an ongoing contravention of First Nations sovereignty and the UN Declaration, the wealth from First Nations lands has been taken without free, prior, and informed consent.
- H. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 100/2019, *New Investments for First Nations Involvement in the Economy*, calls for "federal investments into a new economic strategy and framework...[and] a First Nations policy approach...[and] new investment required for economic programs, services, and incentives...[and] capacity supports for First Nations participation in all aspects of the economy."
- I. In February 2022, the first draft of the National First Nations Economic Growth, Wealth Building, and Prosperity Table proposal was presented to the Chiefs' Committee on Economic Development for input and feedback.

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

1. Call on the federal, provincial and territorial governments to recognize that for true prosperity building for First Nations, revenue and benefit sharing agreements are necessary to ensure that Canada shares the wealth derived from and upon our lands, territories, and resources whether they are treaty or unceded territories.

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2. Support and participate in a National First Nations Economic Growth, Wealth Building, and Prosperity Table that can lead the process to advance a new economic deal for First Nations.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs' Committee on Economic Development (CCED) to provide advice to the National First Nations Economic Growth, Wealth Building and Prosperity Table.
4. Direct the AFN to seek resources to support the establishment of a technical advisory committee comprised of specialists to support the work of the CCED.
5. Direct the AFN, with the guidance of the CCED, to develop a terms of reference and finalize a proposal to seek resources to ensure funding for the National First Nations Economic Growth, Wealth Building and Prosperity Table.

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