
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 6,7,8, 2022, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 22/2022

TITLE:	Charter Amendment - AFN Orientation
SUBJECT:	Including a requirement for AFN Orientation for new members, new leaders, Regional Chiefs, First Nations youth, and AFN staff, among others
MOVED BY:	Council Chairperson Khelsilem, Squamish Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Naa Sháade Eric Háni Morris, Teslin Tlingit, BC
DECISION	Carried; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. In the interest of improving the efficiency and integrity of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal re-affirms the AFN Renewal Report's recommendation that orientation be available to all political representatives and their technicians as appropriate.
- B. The 2005 AFN Renewal Commission recommendation #18 recommended:
 - i. ... And that each Regional Chief be provided with orientation and ongoing advice as to the appropriate fulfilment of his or her political duties in relation to the AFN's administrative operations, staff and financial resources.
- C. The 2005 AFN Renewal Commission recommendation #39 recommended:
 - i. ... And further, that Speakers be provided with orientation and targeted training as required, in advance of an Assembly.
- D. The 2005 AFN Renewal Commission recommendation #45 recommended:
 - i. That, as a significant element of its public education function, the Assembly of First Nations provide orientation to First Nation leaders, youth, AFN staff and others, as appropriate. And further, that such

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orientation encompass introduction to AFN structures, procedures, modes of conduct as well as teachings on First Nation values.

- E. Article 4 of UNDRIP states: 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.
- F. Article 5 of UNDRIP states: 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.
- G. Article 18 of UNDRIP states: 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.
- H. Article 20 of UNDRIP states: 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.
- I. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has a role and responsibility to provide orientation on the AFN, including to new members, new leaders, Regional Chiefs, First Nations youth, and AFN staff, among others.
- J. Such orientation should introduce participants to AFN structures and procedures, expectations concerning delegate and participant conduct and interaction at Assemblies, committees, working groups, and AFN gatherings and include education and teachings on AFN principles, traditional values and guiding foundations.

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

- 1. Direct that Section 26(4) be added to the AFN Charter, which shall state:
 - i. *The AFN Secretariat shall provide orientation on behalf of the Assembly of First Nations specifically to support and provide information for official AFN political and/or technical representatives to ensure the efficiency of AFN's operations, gatherings, and assemblies.*

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2. Direct the AFN Secretariat, in the development and delivery of orientation, either through by-laws, policies or resolutions, addresses the following considerations that may include;
 - a. An orientation to introduce official AFN representatives and participants to AFN governance and operations;
 - b. Expectations concerning delegate and participant conduct and interaction at Assemblies, committees, working groups, and AFN gatherings;
 - c. Education and teachings on AFN principles, traditional values and guiding foundations.

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