



Prosperity for All

ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025





The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern. The AFN hosts two Assemblies a year where mandates and directives for the organization are established through resolutions directed and supported by the First-Nations-in-Assembly (elected Chiefs or proxies from member First Nations).

In addition to the direction provided by Chiefs of each member First Nation, the AFN is guided by an Executive Committee consisting of an elected National Chief and Regional Chiefs from each province and territory. Representatives from five national councils (Knowledge Keepers, Youth, Veterans, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and Women) support and guide the decisions of the Executive Committee.

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Grace Swain, Swan Lake First Nation

Grace Swain is an Indigenous advocate, artist, and communications professional from Swan Lake First Nation on her father's side (Treaty One, MB) and Wiikwemkoong First Nation on her mother's side (ON). She creates Woodland-style art inspired by her Anishinaabe roots and is passionate about breaking down barriers for Indigenous artists. Grace currently lives in the Algoma region and volunteers as the art curator for Café 4 Good in Sault Ste. Marie supporting Indigenous youth, serves on the Creation Advisory Circle for Indigenous Youth Roots (IYR), and is also the Communications Lead for Serpent River First Nation through her business, Anishinaababe Inc.

This design concept tells a story on the turtle's back, weaving in themes and the spirit of our Anishinaabe Creation Story. The turtle's shell features seven interconnected panels, each one representing one of the Seven Grandfather Teachings: Love, Respect, Courage, Truth, Honesty, Humility, and Wisdom. These teachings are foundational to our ways of life and are reflected throughout the design. Each panel flows into the next, telling not just the Creation Story, but also the story of prosperity for all - of healing, reconnection, and cultural reclamation.

In the centre is the sacred fire, shown through red and yellow swirls. Surrounding it is the drum — the heartbeat of Mother Earth — connecting us to our powwows, ceremonies, spirit, Turtle Island, Mother Earth, our ancestors, and each other. The dancers in motion reflect the collective healing, freedom, and love of being able to express our culture once again, when we were once told that we couldn't. I was told that when we dance, we pray for our family, the Earth, and each other to the Creator. There is truly no other form of greater prosperity than that love. The swirl also represents our ancestors dancing with us, and the lines of movement of the drumbeat itself.

It was also very important to me to include "The Rock at Swan Lake First Nation" in this piece — a sacred site that overlooks the water on Treaty 1 Territory. When I think of my home territory, I think of how my ancestors spent time at this rock, and all my relations who show pride at this rock each and every day. The ceremonies that happened here, and the work our ancestors did for us, the 7 generations that came after them. All the yellow in this logo represents our people coming back to the heart of our traditions and being the ones who are truly prosperous when we are connected with our culture & Creation. All prosperity flows from our people reconnecting with culture, Creation, and each other — in this logo and in life.



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National Chief's Report



AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak

It has been a great honour to serve the Assembly of First Nations as National Chief for past year and a half. I thank our Executive Committee, Elders, Councils, AFN staff and Chiefs from coast to coast to coast for their guidance and leadership.

Together, we recognize the strength that lies in the unity of all First Nations across Canada. Our voice is more powerful when we stand together to advance our shared goals and rights.

While a lot has changed since our last report, our values of mutual responsibility among peoples and duties to all Creation have remained the same. They continue to inform every aspect of our international diplomacy, intergovernmental relations, laws, policies and worldview.

While our relationship with Canada is complex and evolving, First Nations have consistently exercised our right to self-determination. We are restoring our laws and inherent authority over our traditional lands.

The AFN has served First Nations for many decades. Initially formed as the National Indian Brotherhood in 1970, our achievements reflect the continuous efforts and commitment of the AFN to advocate for the rights and recognition of First Nations in Canada.

2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS

As National Chief, I am pleased to provide a summary of my activities since our last AFN National Assembly in December 2024.

We start our report by thanking Chiefs that welcomed me to their Territories over the past year. From Musqueam First Nation on the west coast to St. Mary's First Nation in the east, it has been inspiring to visit dozens of communities across the province. We have included a few pictures of these visits in this year's report. We look forward to more visits in the year ahead.

DECEMBER 2024

National Assembly

The AFN hosted its Special Chiefs Assembly from December 3 to 5, 2024 on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation in Ottawa. The gathering brought together thousands of Chiefs, Proxies, youth, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, veterans, and other delegates. Together, we adopted 34 resolutions to guide our collective work.

Following the Supreme Court's November 2024 ruling that the Government of Quebec breached its obligations to Honour of the Crown when negotiating First Nation policing agreements, Chiefs unanimously passed a resolution calling for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing.



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Chiefs also advanced discussions on the Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and establishing of the Children's Chiefs Commission.

Bill C-61 – First Nations Clean Water Legislation

On December 10, our AFN Executive Committee unanimously passed a motion supporting the advancement of Bill C-61 - an Act proposed to respect water, source water, drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nations lands, into its third reading.

Together, we recognized the legislation as a necessary step toward addressing long-standing inequities. A tremendous amount of work went into this version of the Bill and we urged Canada to prioritize the advancement of Bill C-61 without further delay.

The water and wastewater crisis in First Nations communities demands urgent action. First Nations are 90 times more likely than other Canadians to lack access to running water. Over 30 long-term water advisories remain in place, and in some communities, for decades.

JANUARY 2025

Prime Minister Trudeau Resignation

In response to his resignation on January 6, we thanked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the meaningful steps he led during his term to address issues that matter to First Nations. He brought attention to longstanding challenges and resulted in important progress on First Nation rights, languages and child welfare.

The passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act was a milestone in aligning Canadian law with the rights and self-determination of First Nations. While much work remains, his actions have laid a foundation for future governments to build upon.



First Nations Child and Family Services

On January 7, the AFN responded to new correspondence from Canada regarding calls for a new mandate to negotiate long-term reform of the discriminatory policies and practices. Canada stated its mandate on reform did not permit further negotiations at a national level.

In addition to expressing our disappointment, we repeated the AFN's call for Canada to seek a new mandate for negotiations of long-term reform, in accordance with Resolutions passed by First Nations-in-Assembly. The well-being of First Nations children and families remains our top priority, and we will continue to advocate for fair and equitable supports to ensure our children thrive, wherever they live.

Canada-US Trade

On January 15, following President-Elect Donald Trump's proposed tariff on Canadian goods, we met with Prime Minister Trudeau to



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discuss critical border issues, including security, mobility, and the importance of respecting First Nations' inherent rights in cross-border relations.

We also reminded the government that all trade negotiations must respect inherent and Treaty rights, as affirmed by the Constitution and the United Nations Declaration. The ability for First Nations People to cross the US-Canada border freely is fundamental to respecting our inherent rights and the commitments made under the Jay Treaty.

First Nation Education Gaps

On January 17, we released a comprehensive analysis of K-12 First Nations Education in Canada. Sadly, the report highlights limited federal progress in finalizing Regional Education Agreements (REAs) and the need for more collaboration between agencies to improve First Nation education systems.

Despite the Canada's goal to finalize 20 REAs by 2023, Canada had only signed 10 by 2025. Sadly, 6 completed REAs are stalled. This limited progress leaves First Nations students with major gaps including the lack of sufficient support for basic needs that are essential for success.

Open Letter to President Trump

With his inauguration on January 21, we published an open letter to the new US President, Donald J. Trump to ensure he is aware that many of our Nations have territories on both sides of the 49th parallel, crossing the U.S.-Canada border. Decisions made in Washington or Ottawa directly affect Indigenous Peoples on both sides of the line, and yet, our voices are rarely heard.



This land has been home to sovereign Nations since time immemorial, with inherent rights to our lands, waters, and resources that predate colonial systems. While we do not seek permission to uphold our responsibilities to the land and our people, we welcome partnerships rooted in mutual respect. True leadership honours all Nations equally, and we will continue to stand strong for our people, our rights, and our future.

–AFN National Chief Woodhouse-Nepinak letter to US President Trump, January 21, 2025



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FEBRUARY 2025

\$23 Billion Settlement Agreement Roll-Out

On February 1, we launched a national awareness campaign regarding the application process for claims from First Nations eligible to receive compensation from the \$23 billion settlement on discrimination in the First Nations Child and Family Services program and Jordan's Principle.

We completed the historic settlement agreement with the federal government in 2023 following compensation orders from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Applications are available at www.fnchildclaims.ca or by contacting 1-833-852-0755. A national network of First Nations Claims Helpers has been established to assist applicants at no cost.

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

On February 12, we attended NCAI's Winter Assembly in Washington D.C. AFN and NCAI entered into a special Kinship Declaration over 25 years ago to formalize collaboration, achieve mutual goals and promote sustainable development for First Nations and Tribes. The purpose of the visit was to jointly advance collective rights and economic interests in response to the new age of colonialism emerging from the White House.

The impact of tariffs is far-reaching for many Nations on both sides of the border. Higher costs and reduced opportunities will have a direct effect on First Nations businesses and consumers, many of whom already experience challenges in economic participation.

We agreed that in these uncertain times, we need to protect each other and be on the lookout for new opportunities that may emerge.

Ontario Child and Family Services Agreement

On February 26, we welcomed the decision by the Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation to ratify a Final Agreement on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services Program they concluded with the federal government.

Among other things, Ontario's Final First Nations Child Care Agreement will create sweeping positive changes for children and families across the Territory. We lift up Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict, Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and all Ontario Chiefs for their leadership to help end discrimination in Canada's racist child welfare system.

With the announcement, we reminded Canada they have not met their obligations under the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Orders to end discrimination for all First Nation children in Canada. We also repeated our call for Canada to come back to the table to negotiate a new agreement with the National Children's Chiefs Commission.



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MARCH 2025

New Prime Minister

On March 14, we welcomed Mark Carney as Prime Minister after he was sworn in with his Cabinet. One week later, we met in Ottawa. In addition to congratulating him on his new role we talked about how First Nation is determined to foster a new relationship with the Crown built on mutual respect, shared responsibility and the full implementation of First Nations' Treaty rights, inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction.



Among other issues, we discussed the opportunities associated with closing Canada's First Nations infrastructure gap and the importance of ensuring First Nations are fully included in decisions on trade, border mobility and natural resource development.

2025 Federal Election

On March 25, Prime Minister Carney called a federal election for April 28. In response, we released a comprehensive analysis of 2021 population, census and election data to highlight the impact of First Nation votes on the results.

Specifically, 36 federal ridings across every province and territory were identified where First Nations electors could decide the result. In 25 of these constituencies, First Nations electors were greater than the margin of victory in the 2021 election. 19 of these ridings had a First Nations electorate of more than 10% of all eligible voters.

First Nation Languages

On March 31, with National Indigenous Languages Day, we called on the next federal government to commit adequate funds needed for the promotion and revitalization of First Nations languages. In support of previous resolutions approved by Chiefs in Assembly, we highlighted the need for Canada to immediately address funding shortfalls by providing a \$3.8 billion commitment over the next five years.

APRIL 2025

Prosperity for All: First Nations Priorities for the 2025 Federal Election

On April 1, we released *Prosperity for All* which outlined the necessary actions the next federal government must take to uphold First Nations rights, close discriminatory gaps and advance true nation-to-nation relationships.

Prosperity for All outlined a blueprint for economic reconciliation aimed at unlocking the full potential of the First Nations economy and creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs. Each Party leader was invited to consider commitments on key issues important to First Nations.

In addition to Treaty rights and economic reconciliation, *Prosperity for All* focused on the well-being of First Nations children, families, and future generations, the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation



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Commission of Canada and the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.

US Tariffs

On April 4 we joined with all Canadians in opposition to the illegal tariffs announced by the US President against Canada. We face a US administration that is antagonistic toward traditional allies and disinterested in multilateral institutions.

In response, we can dismantle trade barriers within Canada, close long-standing infrastructure gaps affecting First Nations and develop stronger trade relations around the globe. In challenge often lies opportunity. Together, we can chart new paths to secure the well-being and prosperity of both Canada and First Nations.

Federal Leader Forums

On April 15, the AFN launched a series of Virtual Forums with federal leaders in advance of the April 28 election. The inaugural series started with Green Leader Elizabeth May. The NDP's Jagmeet Singh and Conservative Leader Pierre Pollièvre also participated in separate 60-minute forums before Mark Carney concluded the series on April 25.

First Nations issues must be front and centre in federal elections. That's why we felt it was critical to launch this series. The forums were an opportunity for Chiefs to raise the issues that matter most to our Nations, and to hear directly from those who want to lead this country.

His Holiness, Pope Francis

On April 21, we were all saddened by news that His Holiness, Pope Francis, passed away. In an institution resistant to progressive change, Pope Francis led by example and disrupted the status quo in a good way.

In Canada, His Holiness opened a new chapter of healing when he met with a delegation of First Nations and Indigenous Peoples in 2022 to hear firsthand accounts of the harms inflicted by residential schools. He then travelled to Canada to meet with Survivors and issued an apology on our ancestral territories.

Thanks to the work started by Pope Francis, First Nations are now engaged in discussions for the repatriation of sacred First Nations cultural items held by the Vatican. We were honoured to join the Canadian delegation and Governor General Mary Simon at the funeral service.

Federal Election Results

On April 28, we congratulated Prime Minister Mark Carney for winning a minority government in the federal election. We said that we looked forward to working with him and all MPs in the next Parliament toward a secure, safe and prosperous country for First Nations and all Canadians.

We recognized all of the Leaders for addressing First Nations issues during the campaign and celebrated the 30+ First Nation candidates from all parties that ran in this election. Elected or not, we are proud of them and inspired that so many put their name forward this year.



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As a result, we now have more First Nation and Indigenous MPs than ever! We look forward to working with each of them over the coming years.

MAY 2025

Federal First Nations Procurement

On May 7, at the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association's annual meeting, we invited the new federal government to accelerate the creation of a First Nations-led Procurement Authority (FNPA).

In support of economic reconciliation, we called for transfer responsibility for determining federal procurement eligibility to the FNPA we proposed in partnership with other national organizations. If implemented properly, the multi-billion-dollar First Nations procurement program can significantly benefit the Canadian economy.

The new government has an opportunity to start fresh and take immediate action by establishing a First Nation-led agency, one that will drive a transformative policy shift, respond to recent government scandals, support First Nation businesses, and strengthen local economies.

His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV

On May 8, we recognized the election of Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Robert Prevost, the first American Pope in history. We welcomed his message of peace and bridge building among all people and invited His Holiness to continue the important work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, especially those who suffered the harms of Residential Schools.

We look forward to continuing dialogue on many issues including repatriation of sacred First Nations items housed in the Vatican. On May 18, we were honoured to be invited to participate in Pope Leo XIV's inaugural mass in St. Peter's Square as part of Canada's delegation.

Natural Resource Transfer Agreements (NRTA)

On May 12, in response to the Alberta Premier's proposal for a referendum on provincial separation threats, we called on Canada to initiate a constitutional review of the NRTA and engage in good-faith negotiations with First Nations for the restoration of jurisdiction, control and benefit sharing over natural resources.

The NRTA was negotiated in 1930 between Canada and the three prairie provinces to give Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta control over Crown land and resources. This purported transfer occurred without the free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations whose land and resources were affected.

The NRTA is a violation of Treaty rights and incompatibility with s. 35 of the Constitution. It also conflicts with international human rights law, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.





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New Federal Cabinet

In May 13, we welcomed the historic appointment of two First Nations women to the federal Cabinet. Manitoba MP Rebecca Chartrand was appointed as Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. Quebec MP Mandy Gull-Masty was appointed as Minister of Indigenous Services.

Their skills, experience, and understanding of our Nations will be essential in advancing reconciliation, implementing Treaty and inherent rights, and addressing critical gaps.

We look forward to working with the new Cabinet to advance the *Prosperity for All* priorities we put forward during the federal election.

Royal Visit – King Charles III

On May 26, on behalf of First Nations across the country, I was honoured to welcome Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla upon their arrival to Canada. The King's visit was an opportunity to highlight the nation-to-nation relationship between First Nations and the Crown. The Crown and First Nations are foundational to the creation of Canada.

During His Majesty's visit, we met privately to address the state of reconciliation in Canada. We spoke about the importance of honouring commitments that have stood for generations. Progress by Canada is long overdue, including on housing, clean water, healthcare, infrastructure, and full recognition of our rights. I extended an invitation to Their Majesties to visit our Nations in the year ahead.

Speech from the Throne

On May 27, King Charles III delivered the new government's Speech from the Throne in the Senate. The Speech expressed commitments to continue the work of reconciliation and mentioned the importance of protecting Indigenous peoples' languages.

Speech from the Throne Excerpts

"Canada has embraced its British, French, and Indigenous roots, and become a bold, ambitious, innovative country that is bilingual, truly multicultural, and committed to reconciliation."

"It is my great hope that in each of your communities, and collectively as a country, a path is found toward truth and reconciliation, in both word and deed."

"Central to this commitment is the creation of long-term wealth and prosperity with Indigenous Peoples. As Canada moves forward with nation-building projects, the Government will always be firmly guided by the principle of free, prior, and informed consent."



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In his address, His Majesty expressed the government's commitment to respect free, prior and informed consent, a critical legal standard respecting project development. This is an unprecedented mention in a Speech from the Throne. We look forward to seeing this implemented by Canada in decision-making.

Closing the First Nations Infrastructure Gap

On May 28, we released new findings with the Conference Board of Canada highlighting the significant socio-economic benefits of closing Canada's First Nations Infrastructure Gap. Previous analyses confirmed that a federal investment of \$349 billion to close this gap would contribute more than \$635 billion to the Canadian economy and create 300,000 jobs.

This blueprint repositions Canada as a G7 leader and mitigates the impact of U.S. tariffs. It also significantly improves quality of life for First Nations people, particularly in housing, education, and clean water. Critical infrastructure gaps have led to poorer health outcomes, limited education opportunities and much less prosperity for First Nations compared with non-Indigenous Canadians,"

Among its 16 findings, the report highlights that investments in housing are critical to strengthening social cohesion, reducing overcrowding, and supporting land reclamation. As of 2021, 37% of First Nations people lived in homes requiring major repairs, and 35% lived in overcrowded conditions on-reserve.

Housing solutions will improve health outcomes for thousands of First Nations people and generate \$245 billion in economic growth. Building First Nations housing on reserve and Treaty lands offers a path toward reconciliation and a more prosperous future for all.

JUNE 2025

Wildfires

Throughout the spring and into the summer, First Nation leaders in virtual all parts of the country have been responding to multiple wildfire emergencies. We extend our prayers to the all the families and communities impacted and displaced by these wildfires. We also lift up first responders and Chiefs on the front line that have been fighting fires and supporting evacuees.

The risks from wildfires are growing in severity every year. We cannot wait until we are in a crisis situation for First Nations to be taken seriously when we voice concerns. Chiefs need to be heard when they call for action to mobilize resources and must also have the authority and support to declare states of emergency.

The Conference Board of Canada's most recent analysis of the First Nations infrastructure gap highlights that strategic investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, all-season roads, ports, airports and runways would not only reduce the impact of future crises. They will also contribute \$70.6 billion to Canada's GDP by 2030 and create over 72,000 full-time jobs.





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Calls for Justice Anniversary

On June 3, we commemorated the sixth anniversary of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) with the release of our 2025 Progress Report on Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice. This year's report focused on the urgent and growing crisis of human trafficking.

The report shows that responses to trafficking remain underfunded and inconsistent across sectors and regions. First Nation survivors and families are excluded from decision-making. In 2019, the National Inquiry made it clear that the investment into solving this crisis must be equal to or better than the over five hundred years of deficit that have preceded it.

Since this has yet to happen, we continue to demand that Canada ensure full implementation of the Calls for Justice, not only on

human trafficking, but also policing, corrections, the impacts of resource extraction, and interjurisdictional and cross-border coordination.

Prime Minister Carney Meeting

On June 5, we met with Prime Minister Carney for the first time after his federal election victory. In addition to discussing the First Nations infrastructure gap as a nation-building project. We encouraged him to take urgent action with us to ensure all First Nations have proper schools, clean water, quality housing, internet access, all season roads and vital community infrastructure.

In addition to the AFN Prosperity for All priorities, we discussed the devastating impact on many First Nations of the wildfire crisis in Western Canada. We also expressed our support for his efforts in response to the US President's illegal tariffs.

The Prime Minister reiterated his government's intent to introduce federal legislation to fast-track federal approvals of certain infrastructure projects designated to be in the national interest.

Bill C5

On June 6, the federal government introduced Bill C5, the One Canadian Economy Act. Among other things, the Bill focused on rapid approval of national infrastructure projects.

With the Bill's introduction, we identified a series of early observations and concerns, including:

- Unacceptably short period of time for First Nations to respond - particularly alongside the Royal Visit and Western Canada wildfire crisis.
- Absence of any consultative draft of the proposed legislation for First Nations to review.
- Lack of an established process with First Nations to ensure requirements of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act are met.



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- The inability of Parliamentary process alone to conduct the depth of consultation required to ensure legislation fully meets the Crown's constitutional and legal obligations.

While we support efforts to protect Canada from geopolitical and economic uncertainty, First Nations expressed concern that Bill C5 has the potential to violate many collective rights of First Nations respecting lands, water, resources, inherent title, rights, jurisdiction and Treaty.

The AFN response also highlighted the opportunity for substantive discussions to address Canada's First Nations infrastructure gap. With the Prime Minister's support, we can fast-track the basics like clean water, quality housing, modern schools, all-season roads and essential community infrastructure.

First Nations Justice Strategy

On June 11, we released the National First Nations Justice Strategy, a landmark document resulting from nearly five years of consultation with First Nations and co-development with Canada's Department of Justice. The Strategy aims to address long-standing issues with the justice system, police and corrections with 25 flexible strategies that are First Nations-driven approaches to reform Canada's criminal justice system.

Although Indigenous people represent only 5% of the adult population in Canada, we account for nearly one-third of the federally incarcerated population, and more than 50% of all federally incarcerated women are Indigenous.

This blueprint for positive change that identifies two clear paths to follow. First, revitalize First Nations laws and legal systems. Second, reform the Canadian criminal justice system. We are thankful to Chiefs and First Nation leaders from coast to coast to coast that supported this historic document.

National Chief's Forum

On June 16, in response to concerns from First Nations about Bill C5, we hosted a national virtual forum for Chiefs to discuss the implications of the proposed legislation. Unfortunately, Canada provided First Nations only seven days to respond to an outline of the bill and did not provide the full text in advance.



Hundreds attended the half day on-line forum. The feedback received shaped our presentations to the Parliamentary Committees that were holding very limited hearings on the bill. Sadly, virtually all Chiefs that wanted to testify at the Senate and House of Commons were turned away or uninvited.

While some limited changes were made to the Bill in response to our representations, Parliament passed C5 on June 27 after voting down proposals to include the requirement of free, prior and informed consent of First Nations into the law.



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JULY 2025

Prime Minister Summit

In response to our concerns about Bill C5, Prime Minister Carney agreed to host a National Summit with Chiefs from across the country in July to discuss concerns about the Bill and hear directly from Chiefs about other issues, including the First Nations infrastructure gap.

On July 10, we hosted a second National Forum with hundreds of First Nation leaders to review the amendments made to the Bill, answer questions and discuss plans going into the Summit.

On July 21, Chiefs from across the country travelled to Ottawa to participate in the National Summit over two days on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation in Ottawa. This was the first such meeting in over 12 years.

Chiefs spoke so strongly about our history, our future and the well-being of our children and youth. They made it clear that First Nations support economic growth and prosperity for all - but not at the expense of our rights and the environment.

In addition to providing direct feedback about C5, we encouraged the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers to:

- Initiate substantial investments to close the First Nations infrastructure gap.
- Ensure essential First Nations programs and services are not impacted by the federal government's current budget review.
- Fast track stronger First Nations Clean Water legislation this fall.
- Reassess the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement they signed with Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba without First Nation consent.
- Legislate First Nation policing as an essential, fully funded service.
- Host a follow-up Summit next year to assess the government's commitments.

First Ministers Meeting

The week after the National Summit, on July 28, we met with Canadian Premiers at their annual summer meeting. This was an opportunity to speak to Premiers directly about the role of First Nations in decision-making on major projects. We are thankful they agreed with our suggestion to have a First Ministers meeting on First Nation issues and opportunities. The Ontario Premier chaired and agreed to take this forward to the Prime Minister.





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AUGUST 2025

Settlement Update

On August 7, we confirmed more than 40,000 claims have been received through the application process we launched in February for First Nations eligible to receive compensation from the \$23 billion settlement on discrimination in the First Nations Child and Family Services program and Jordan's Principle.

While we are pleased to see so many applications, many more First Nations from the Removed Child and Removed Child Family classes are eligible for compensation. A national network First Nation claims helpers provide trauma-informed support and answer questions from applicants.

One week later, on August 14, we confirmed the first compensation payments were distributed. While no amount of money can give them back their childhood, this is at least a signal they have been wronged and that they can continue forward with their healing process.

AFN Pre Budget Submission

With the new government planning to deliver their first budget in October, we provided the Canada with a summary of priorities that reflect resolutions approved by Chiefs in Assembly. These strategic investments will make Canada stronger and more united.

From basic infrastructure, housing, childcare and policing to education, health care, internet access and emergency preparedness – there is much work to do. Prime Minister Carney recognized this when he was asked about budget cuts during his July Summit. He reassured Chiefs that he understands more needs to be done – not less. He added that this was absolutely clear to him on social services, policing, health, education and the infrastructure gap.

To address these discriminatory gaps and strengthen the economy, AFN budget priorities focused on capital investments, essential services and addressing governance gaps that limit First Nations potential. These include:

- Capital investments over 10 years to close Canada's \$360 billion First Nations infrastructure gap, create hundreds of thousands of shovel-ready jobs and more than offset Trump's tariffs.
- Education, training and First Nation language investments of \$20 billion over the next five years.
- Keeping the \$48 billion negotiated by the AFN and Ontario Chiefs of Ontario last year on the table for long term reform of Canada's discriminatory First Nation Child Welfare system.
- An immediate \$700 million investment over five years to sustain mental wellness strategies, distribute naloxone kits to every First Nation, prevention and recovery services.
- \$2.6 billion investment towards delivery of First Nations policing as an essential service and supporting the current program through its transition to a new statutory framework.
- \$800 million over the next two years to support First Nations review of national interest projects, create a Project Office to close the infrastructure gap and a First Nation-led Procurement Authority to achieve the federal 5% target for legitimate First Nation businesses.



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CONCLUSION

The history of the Crown-First Nations relationship shows that First Nations have fought against great odds to protect our rights, our laws, our languages, our lands, resources and waters.

We have fought in the courts and on the land to protect our rights as Peoples and Nations. That fight has been remarkably successful. Nothing has been given to us and we are not going back.

First Nations have learned through hard experience that if we don't mobilize to protect our rights, no one else will.

When federal and provincial governments tried to exclude us from the process to repatriate the Constitution in the early 1980's, First Nations successfully fought to ensure that a provision, section 35, was included to recognize and affirm our Treaty rights and our pre-existing, inherent rights.

Then, First Nations were told that section 35 was simply an empty box; that any rights we thought we have must be negotiated again through agreements. So, we fought in Canada's court system, and we proved that wrong. No one talks about section 35 as being an empty box anymore.

There are now hundreds of court decisions affirming the substance and strength of the constitutional affirmation of our Treaty and inherent rights.

With the fall 2025 federal budget and by honouring the commitments announced by His Majesty in this year's historic Speech from the Throne, the new federal government has an opportunity to transform their promises to First Nations from words to deeds.

First Nations stand with Canadians in condemning Trump's illegal tariffs because First Nations always fight for Canada in difficult times. Now is another one of those times.

That is why, First Nations are making it clear that our full participation and consent are no longer optional. Our rights are not for sale.





National Chief's Report



SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS

In addition to the events described in the Activity Report, here are some other events we attended since my last report in December 2024.

February 6: AFN's National Forum on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act to reflect and build on First Nations' expectations for all governments to implement the United Nations Declaration Act. Feedback contributed to the Progress Report we released in June 2025.

March 10-14: 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to discuss the rights, safety, and economic empowerment of First Nations women and girls and advocate for action on the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

March 20: National Virtual Forum on Advancing the Calls for Justice focused on the prevention of human trafficking and sexual trafficking.

April 2-3: AFN National Justice Forum on the Revitalization of First Nations Laws and Legal Orders with over 300 participants, including Chiefs and leadership, First Nations delegates, legal professionals, government and corporate representatives, non-profit organizations, students, and youth.

April 21: 24th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to discuss the impacts of trade and border policy on First Nations and push for greater inclusion in decisions that affect First Nations' rights and economies.



Regional Chiefs' Reports





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Andrea Paul, Nova Scotia

Kwe' Nitaptut! Greetings to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs, Regional Chiefs, Chiefs, Knowledge Keepers, Women's Council, Veterans, Youth, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Council. I am proud to extend the well wishes from my Chiefs and Councils from Mi'kma'ki.

Introduction

As Regional Chief for Nova Scotia, I am honoured to provide a six-month update on our regional activities. Our Chiefs are always very busy working collaboratively on issues such as fishing, justice, economic development, rights-based issues, health transformation, social reform, housing and other issues as they arise. am proud to support the region's efforts through national advocacy.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

My office has been extremely busy over the past six months. First, I want to thank everyone for their support of the Blanket Dance for Jeremy Meawasige. I'm happy to report that he is doing well and is now home, being well cared for by his family, friends, and support staff. Thank you for your incredible kindness during their most challenging days. Your love, prayers, and financial support were deeply appreciated.

I also want to take a moment to thank my portfolio directors for their support this past year. I serve as the portfolio co-chair on Fisheries, Languages, and Health, and I also sit on the Management Committee. Thank you so much, James, Bram, Cheyenne, and Andrew, along with your staff, for all your hard work in support of our Nation.

My office secured a small budget from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to support strategic planning for the Regional Chief's Office, in collaboration with Chiefs and Executive Directors from various Mi'kmaq organizations. We are still in the process of completing this work and hope to finalize it by the end of this month. Thank you to Heidi Weigand for her valuable support on this project.

I have been invited to speak at numerous events, including engagements with the Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC) and the IAAC Indigenous Advisory Committee, on consultation and Indigenous-led approaches using a two-eyed seeing lens. I also spoke with elementary school students about Indigenous governance and language revitalization, and with Bachelor of Education students at STFX University on Indigenous education.

I've had the privilege of attending several conferences, meetings, and planning sessions in the region.

Some of the highlights include (but not limited to): In January, I was invited to attend the Atlantic Policy Congress Fisheries Conference and Awards Show; February I attended Nationhood on Justice hosted by Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative; March was the Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey Education Symposium; April, I attended the Strategic Planning Session for a Regional Data Centre for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and my office hosted the Grand Council Gathering in collaboration with Senator PJ Prosper's office, which included Grand Council members from the Seven Districts of Mi'kma'ki; May, I attended the Strategic Planning Sessions for



Regional Chiefs' Reports



the Tripartite Forum and also, attended the Provincial Roundtable on MMIWG2S with Minister Leah Martin and the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association to review the provincial calls to justice.

In May, I joined several Chiefs and technicians from our region on a tour in Orkney, Scotland, with the Orbital Marine Centre to observe a tidal energy project known as the O2. This floating tidal turbine, connected to the European Marine Energy Centre, supplies clean and sustainable electricity to the people of Orkney. Witnessing this technology in action was incredible, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this learning tour. For more information, visit orbitalmarine.com.

In the past year, we were fortunate to have Annie Bernard-Daisley working as our Women and Gender Equity Coordinator. Annie worked tirelessly, as always, advocating for the safety and well-being of our women, girls, boys, men and Two Spirit people. Annie also created space for women in leadership and hosted a gathering in October and again in February which was well received. Annie also collaborated with the Nova Scotia Human Trafficking Unit to host two Human Trafficking Information Sessions, one on the mainland and the other in Cape Breton (Una'maki). These sessions were in high demand, unfortunately Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) was discontinued end of March. We hope to see this reinstated because there is much work that still needs to be done to support our communities and leadership.

To the financial partners for the region: thank you to AFN for its support of Climate, Water, and Nature initiatives. We partnered with several organizations to support the Regional Office in these areas. Thanks as well to Justice Canada for its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA), which we partnered with Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) for this. We also thank ISC for the financial support for our strategic planning, the Fulcher Foundation's generous donation to support Grand Council Governance planning, and the Nova Scotia Native Friendship Centre's recent announcement to help bring Annie back to continue her vital work supporting women and girls. We are also grateful for the ongoing in-kind support from Mi'kmaq organizations and Chiefs in our region in advancing our priorities. A special thank you to my executive assistant and financial officer, Delphine, for all that you do for me and for our Region. We are so lucky to have you!

Lastly, I want to share that the Chiefs of Nova Scotia continue to address the lack of consultation related to new strategies around natural resource extraction and mining, which is a common theme across the country. Our regions are frequently having to remind governments of their duty to consult and to uphold the requirements of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration). Let's all continue working together to address the infrastructure gaps in our Nation and to fast-track priorities such as housing, clean drinking water, roads, and modern schools.





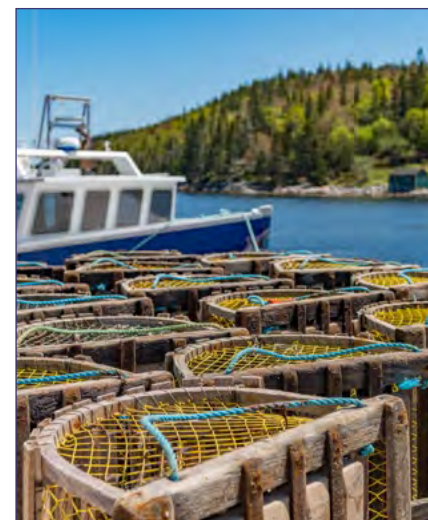
Regional Chiefs' Reports



National Portfolio #1 – Health

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

The AFN- Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Joint Review has underscored how restrictive fiscal and eligibility policies create significant barriers to achieving equitable health outcomes for First Nations. The review process continues to highlight persistent challenges and administrative obstacles, which frequently delay or deny access to essential health services for First Nations individuals. Such barriers not only discourage provider participation but also result in interrupted or inadequate care, ultimately widening health disparities. Modernizing the NIHB program and addressing these structural inefficiencies are critical policy for AFN, for advancing health equity and ensuring that First Nations communities have reliable access to culturally appropriate care.



Disabilities

The AFN submitted a shadow report to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, advocating for rightful access to resources and services for First Nations persons with disabilities. The AFN also started to plan for engagements to inform distinct First Nations accessibility legislation and established the Accessibility Hub of Excellence to support accessibility and inclusion.

Mental Wellness and Substance Use

The AFN continues to advocate for the permanent and equitable funding of the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program, emphasizing First Nations-led services. Through resolutions, the sector aims to ensure access to substance use recovery resources and improve emergency service management.

Public Health

First Nations in northern and remote communities experience tuberculosis rates four times the national average. The AFN has received funding to develop a national strategy, working closely with frontline workers to address these disparities and invest in the social determinants of health.

Racism in Health Care Systems

Racism remains a persistent challenge, contributing to mistrust and unsafe health care environments. The AFN is developing a national cultural safety and humility standard in collaboration with the Health Standards Organization and a First Nations Technical Committee, aiming for completion by 2027.

Long-term and Continuing Care

The AFN has submitted recommendations to Indigenous Services Canada to improve the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program and Assisted Living, emphasizing culturally safe, community-based, and self-determined care. The AFN continues to advocate for a modernized, distinctions-based, and fully funded continuum of care.



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Seven Generations Continuum of Care

The AFN has released a foundational document outlining the Seven Generations Continuum of Care, a holistic and culturally grounded approach addressing health needs across the lifespan. This model emphasizes First Nations sovereignty, self-determination, and the integration of traditional and biomedical knowledge systems. Looking ahead, the AFN is planning an NIHB National Dialogue in February 2026 which stands as a pivotal opportunity to critically reflect on the program's evolution. This dialogue will bring together First Nations leaders, health professionals, and policy makers to examine the historical challenges, current realities, and future possibilities of the NIHB program.

National Portfolio #2 – Fisheries (East Coast)

I was appointed to the National Fisheries Committee in January 2024 as a representative of the East Coast and have been enjoying my new role as Co-Chair alongside Regional Chief Terry Teegee, who represents the West Coast.

On the East Coast, salmon remains a priority for all affected First Nations. Our stocks have been experiencing long-term declines due in part to overfishing, habitat loss and degradation, competition for food sources in the ocean, environmental contamination, and climate change, which is resulting in warmer-than-usual waters in our rivers, lakes, and oceans. These stocks also face the added challenge of migrating past dams. This year, we advocated to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for a more robust and better-financed wild Atlantic salmon conservation and protection program, one that reflects funding levels similar to those already in place in the Pacific Region. The National Fisheries Committee is monitoring these initiatives closely.

The Elvers fisheries closures of 2024 have had devastating impacts on affected First Nations and their citizens who rely on these fisheries. Since the openings in 2025, we have received multiple reports of ongoing harassment and confusion. The National Fisheries Committee is actively engaged on these matters. We have communicated our concerns directly to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Conservation and Protection division and plan to collaborate as much as possible with DFO to reduce tensions and raise public awareness.

The Elvers fisheries are rights-based fisheries, and DFO has a duty of care to co-manage and co-govern these fisheries with affected First Nations.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

DFO is currently in the process of transforming the governance of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC). The Inland Working Group under the National Fisheries Committee is actively engaged in this file and receives regular updates from the Interprovincial Working Group, which is invited to attend and participate in every regular meeting. We are hoping to meet with officials in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for a tour of the FFMC's physical plant and to continue our discussions.





Regional Chiefs' Reports



National Fisheries Committee Strategic Plan 2025-2028

From May 2024 to February 2025, the National Fisheries Committee (NFC) undertook strategic planning and identified eight strategic directions. For each of these directions, the NFC outlined specific objectives that will be actioned over the 2025-2028 period through the introduction of proposed resolutions to the General Assemblies. Through this process, the NFC has renewed its mandate within its current funding levels and, with support from the AFN, continue advocating for the full implementation of Supreme Court of Canada decisions and for the full recognition of rights-based First Nations fisheries across the country. A common theme at the NFC is the need for public education and increased awareness within all levels of DFO to advance fisheries reform, including addressing systemic racism. This issue is regularly discussed in detail at NFC meetings and is a core component of the NFC Strategic Plan 2025–2028. One of our primary goals is to pursue mechanisms that ensure accountability and transparency from the federal government and the Crown in fully implementing rights-based fisheries across Canada. This must include the implementation of Supreme Court decisions and the UNDA.

National Portfolio #3 – Languages

The AFN has provided support and advocacy for several key priorities and mandates related to language revitalization and the implementation of the First Nations National Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL). Since July 2024, the AFN has hosted five meetings of the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) and the Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL). These meetings contributed to the Independent Review of the Indigenous Languages Act (ILA) process, the development of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (OCIL) complaint document, and the creation of the CCOL/TCOL Strategic Plan and Work Plan. The AFN also continued bilateral discussions with Canadian Heritage, resulting in updates and improvements to the Indigenous Languages Component – First Nations Languages Funding Model guidelines and in drafting proposed amendments to the Indigenous Languages Program (ILP) Terms and Conditions.

Language Revitalization

Supporting the implementation and strengthening of the ILA remains a core focus for the AFN. This includes ongoing discussions with the Joint Implementation Steering Committee regarding the ILA review process. At the March 2025 Strategic Planning Session, the CCOL recommended that the AFN begin work to finalize reviewer selection criteria and develop a shortlist of potential reviewers and advisors for submission to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages. This proposed list will be shared with the CCOL and TCOL at the next meeting for consideration.

The AFN also supported CCOL and TCOL in achieving national consensus on the implementation of an interim regional allocation formula, as mandated by AFN Resolution 19/2024, *First Nations Languages Regional Allocation Formula*. This formula, which represents a compromise between regions and reflects the committees' ability to overcome barriers imposed by the federal government, was shared with Canadian Heritage and applied in the allocation of Budget 2024 languages funding.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



In response to Resolution 19/2024, the AFN commissioned a research contract on *Language Endangerment Risk Data Source Assessment and Collection* to ensure that the eight sustainability factors outlined in the AFN's 2022 First Nations Languages Funding Model are supported by the most suitable data sources. The findings from this research will help inform future discussions on the Regional Allocation Formula.

The AFN has completed drafting a complaint document to the OCIL addressing chronically inadequate funding and misalignment with the principles and objectives of the Indigenous Languages Act. At the March 2025 Strategic Planning Session, the CCOL recommended submitting this complaint, which is now in its final stage of approval.



As part of Resolution 19/2024, the AFN successfully hosted two facilitated, two-day Strategic Planning Sessions in Toronto on November 6–7, 2024, and March 19–20, 2025. These sessions focused on long-term objectives to support future co-development work on language priorities. The CCOL and TCOL worked collaboratively to develop a joint Strategic Plan and Work Plan, including defined deliverables and associated timelines. The draft will be shared and reviewed at the upcoming CCOL/TCOL meeting during the Annual General Assembly in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The AFN continues to support the implementation of the First Nations National Action Plan for the IDIL. This work includes participating in UNESCO's Global Task Force meetings, alongside the AFN's nominated representative, Dr. Lorna Williams.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

Thank you to everyone for your continued support. I remain committed to advocating for and advancing our regional and national priorities. With the federal election now behind us and a new Prime Minister and cabinet in place, I look forward to supporting the important work ahead. As discussions increasingly focus on positioning Canada as a "global energy superpower" and building "the strongest economy in the G7," we must ensure that First Nations are not left behind.

Thank you to the National Chief for her advocacy at the Prime Ministerial level, and to our many Chiefs and Regional Chiefs who continue to remind governments of their constitutional commitments. I look forward to our continued efforts to support our Regions and our Nation as a whole. We are stronger when we are united, and I believe that moving forward, we will rely on that unity to protect our resources, our people, and our communities.

Wishing you all a wonderful assembly and thank you for being with us this week.

Wela'liog
Regional Chief Andrea Paul



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell Newfoundland Region

I bring greetings from the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland. Our region continues to be grateful for our active participation at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and our representation at the AFN Executive Committee under the leadership of National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak. I welcome everyone to the 46th Annual General Assembly (AGA) being held in Treaty 1 Territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Introduction

Greetings Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, AFN Council members, Band Councillors, fellow AFN Executive Committee members, and AFN staff.

The AFN Newfoundland Regional Office continues to support the important work of the AFN. The roles of the National Chief, AFN Executive Committee and Management Committee in conjunction with senior staff, are crucial to the ongoing success and development of the AFN on behalf of the First Nations-in-Assembly and First Nations communities. The AFN Newfoundland Region will continue to actively participate in and support the initiatives undertaken by the AFN and fully support National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak in her important work at home, in Canada, and internationally.

The lead-up to the recent federal election marked a period of uncertainty for the AFN in its relationship with Canada. The election has now positioned Mark Carney as our Prime Minister and provided a Federal Cabinet with whom new relationships must be fostered. For the first time in Canada's history, we have Indigenous Members of Parliament in key ministerial roles. The AFN Newfoundland Region will contribute to assisting the AFN in developing positive working relationships with government officials at all levels and will do so in the true spirit of reconciliation.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

As in many regions, housing continues to be an area of concern for Newfoundland communities. There is a growing demand for housing units and programs that can provide funding for housing repairs. The persistent housing crisis and challenges related to homelessness remain pressing issues, particularly as our province continues to face a rising cost of living. Families and individuals struggle to cover basic needs such as shelter, heating, and food. In the Atlantic Region, it is estimated that roughly 13,000 new housing units are needed by First Nations to meet current demand, while approximately 100,000 new units are needed by First Nations across Canada.

Newfoundland is exploring opportunities in wind energy, mining, and the fishing sector, particularly redfish. It is crucial that the Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland are involved from the outset of discussions on land development and projects in our unceded territory. Furthermore, Mi'kmaq people must have fair opportunities to participate in and benefit from these developments.

The Newfoundland Region has seen increasing demand for mental health and wellness services. The region has yet to establish its first Indigenous, culturally based, standalone wellness centre. Discussions and actions have been initiated to establish such a centre, and the Office of the Regional Chief has been, and will



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continue to be, supportive of this initiative. A broader issue facing Newfoundlanders is the shortage of family doctors. An estimated 130,000 residents of the province have no family doctor. Many among this number are Indigenous People. In conjunction with this issue, many medical services are only available in the provincial capital, St. John's, requiring lengthy and costly travel.



Pictured are participants from the regional women's initiative event participating in a tour of the Senate and House of Commons as part of leadership training in Ottawa.

Women's Initiative

In October 2024, the AFN Newfoundland Region hosted its first AFN Women's Initiative event, bringing together Indigenous women from across Newfoundland. Participants engaged in team building activities, including crafting, drumming, and song. Women leaders at various career stages also shared their leadership perspectives during panel discussions. Several guest speakers also provided participants valuable advice in the areas of communication, finance, leadership, and law.

Our Region's Women's Coordinator also hosted community luncheons to connect with women in our communities, informing future reporting. A group of women from each region was selected to attend a trip to Ottawa, where they participated in a women's leadership training conference at the University of Ottawa and toured the Senate and

House of Commons. Looking ahead, we seek opportunities to host similar events to promote leadership among Indigenous women in our region.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) Coordinator Activities

Public presentations were held throughout the province to engage member First Nations and their membership. Presentations addressed the importance of Indigenous rights and their history within the province. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, resulting in considerable advancement in dialogue about United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA). The UNDA Coordinator also held a virtual event for those unable to attend in person, and the presentation has since been added to the Regional Office website. Several senior provincial officials have viewed the presentation; next steps include meetings with the new Premier and Cabinet Ministers to promote the province's adoption of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This fall, the UNDA presentation will also be introduced into the provincial school system.



Pictured (L to R): Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy, and UNDA Coordinator Keith Cormier.



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Water, Nature and Climate Change

Our coordinators for water, infrastructure, climate change, and nature have been conducting research on issues facing our communities. As our region has only one reserve, coordinators have been navigating the challenges of provincial jurisdiction while formulating ways to coordinate activities to advance their portfolios. They have engaged with communities, conducted community visits, and participated in local and national conferences to bring information and knowledge back to our communities. Our coordinators are looking at a collaborative project to bring support to our communities.

National Portfolio #1 – Housing and Infrastructure

Over the past year, our advocacy has elevated housing, infrastructure, water, and homelessness as national priorities. Through direct letters to federal ministers, media engagement, and participation in parliamentary processes, we continue to press for urgent federal action.

Regional Chief Mitchell appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts and national media interviews to call for concrete investments to close the infrastructure gap and meet urgent First Nations housing needs. He emphasized that improving housing is foundational to employment, wealth creation, and overall well-being, and that without action, the First Nations infrastructure gap will only widen by 2030. As Chair of the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI), Regional Chief Mitchell convened a meeting with Assistant Deputy Ministers responsible for housing to advance a joint roadmap responding to the Auditor General's recommendations and support First Nations' care and control of housing and infrastructure. Discussions also supported the work of the Joint Technical Working Group on Housing, Related Infrastructure, and Homelessness. Ongoing advocacy has highlighted the national homelessness crisis and rise of encampments affecting First Nations, with engagement across federal departments and the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate.

Work has also included advocacy for the advancement of Bill C-61, *First Nations Clean Water Act*, to ensure that First Nations have access to safe and reliable water systems. Regional Chief Mitchell supported the National Chief in releasing *Benefits for All Canadians Part 2 – Long-Term Socio-Economic Impacts of Closing the Infrastructure Gap*. As part of his ongoing advocacy related to water and wastewater infrastructure, Regional Chief Mitchell participated in and spoke at the 7th Annual Water Symposium, highlighting the efforts of First Nations and industry allies in advancing equitable access to clean water. Additionally, Regional Chief Mitchell and Grace Martineau, AFN Director of Housing and Infrastructure, traveled to Winnipeg in April to present at the Manitoba Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Conference, providing updates on housing, homelessness, and water issues. Regional Chief Mitchell also represents the AFN at meetings of the Atlantic Region housing and infrastructure group.





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A special thank you is extended to members of the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, especially Committee Co-Chair Chief Lance Haymond.

National Portfolio #2 – Management Committee

The Management Committee continues to meet regularly with senior staff to address the business activities of the AFN. Regional Chiefs serving on the Management Committee include Regional Chief Willie Moore (Manitoba), Regional Chief Abram Benedict (Ontario), Regional Chief Joanna Bernard (New Brunswick), Regional Chief Andrea Paul (Nova Scotia), and Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell (Newfoundland), Committee Chairperson.

In 2024, the Management Committee led the process to hire a permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the AFN. In April of last year, Robert Half Executive Search was contracted to conduct the CEO search, resulting in the hiring of Andrew Bisson as the current CEO. The Management Committee also participated in selecting a contractor to conduct an operational review of the AFN, with the final report expected by mid-June. The Management Committee extends its thanks to CEO Andrew Bisson, Director of Operations Jonathan Thompson, and other staff for their valuable contributions.



The Path Ahead:

Over the past year, the Office of the Regional Chief for Newfoundland established its Board of Directors, finalized the setup of Regional Offices at Miawpukek First Nation in Conne River, NL, and in Corner Brook, NL, and completed the process of establishing a five-year strategic plan. Going forward, the Office of the Regional Chief will continue to support Newfoundland's AFN affiliates as the office is fully established and positioned to assist affiliates and the AFN National Office. Work in areas such as climate change, water, infrastructure, and nature will continue, supported by grants secured from the AFN.

The Office of the Regional Chief will maintain its schedule of regular Board meetings and seek input from the Board on matters affecting the region. The region will continue to ensure active participation by committee representatives and looks forward to a busy summer of community visits and pow wow season, which begins in early July. Our region hopes the National Chief will visit Newfoundland this year and will present the King Charles III Coronation Medal to recipients. The important work of the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure and the Management Committee will remain at the forefront of ongoing activities. Our region looks forward to participating in the July AGA in Winnipeg.

Conclusion:

I am honoured to serve the Newfoundland Region and the AFN as Regional Chief. It's important to have a place at the AFN table and to work in unity and collaboration with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak and other Regional Chiefs as we work to create a better today and tomorrow for First Nations. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Wela'lioq



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, New Brunswick Region

Qey, Kwey, Greetings! First, I want to recognize that the City of Winnipeg is located on the beautiful Treaty One territory and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anisininew, Ininiwak/Nehethowuk, and Oceti Sakowin/Dakota Oyate Peoples.

Introduction

I am pleased to present this report to reflect on the achievements and progress we've made over the past few months. This document stands as a testament to the collective efforts undertaken to strengthen our communities, advocate for justice, and uphold the sovereignty of First Nations peoples across Turtle Island.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

During this term, I have witnessed resilience, unity, and unwavering determination in the face of adversity. Together, we have addressed regional and national challenges, advanced key initiatives, and laid the groundwork for a brighter future. Through collaboration and shared vision, we highlight the progress made and the foundation laid for a better tomorrow. The New Brunswick Assembly of First Nations (NBAFN) wishes to highlight the region's key priorities for 2025.

Unity

Since the beginning of my tenure as Regional Chief, a key focus of the NBAFN office has been building unity among New Brunswick (NB) Chiefs and fostering opportunities for First Nations to collaborate. Collectively, leadership recognizes the value of working together, sharing knowledge, and maintaining a united front on shared matters.

Policing

The Chiefs in New Brunswick recognize that policing is an important component of safety and security. However, they emphasize that it is only one part of a broader strategy. To build healthy and resilient communities, all aspects of safety and security, beyond policing, must be addressed. To this end, the NB Chiefs, in collaboration with the Province of New Brunswick and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), have developed a First Nations Safety and Security Workplan. This plan supports the advancement of community safety and security objectives and aims to promote the highest levels of professionalism and accountability. It is designed to reflect the unique cultures, social circumstances, traditions, and aspirations of First Nations.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a growing issue in Canada, particularly on the East Coast. First Nations women and girls are especially vulnerable. Many NB First Nations are located near provincial borders and along the TransCanada Highway.



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On March 26, 2025, the NB Chiefs called upon the Province of New Brunswick to work in partnership with First Nations to stop trafficking and begin the healing process for survivors. Leadership acknowledges the initial steps taken by the provincial government but stresses that meaningful and sustained action is still needed.

National Portfolio #1 – National Children's Chiefs Commission

In my role as Regional Chief and Portfolio Holder for Children and Families, I serve as a liaison to the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC). I met with members of the NCCC in person on April 28, 2025, and continue to meet with the Commission virtually on a regular basis. Through our collective efforts, the NCCC and the AFN have collaborated on a draft Memorandum of Understanding to guide our joint work and outline our respective roles and responsibilities in advancing long-term reform for our children and families.

The AFN has advocated for the NCCC's funding request to support its negotiation mandate. I have continued to call on the Government of Canada to return to the negotiating table with a mandate aligned with the direction provided by the First Nations-in-Assembly in October and December 2024.

National Portfolio #2 – Economic Development

As Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the AFN hosted its first annual AFN National Natural Resource Forum. This forum provided First Nations with the opportunity to network with government and industry partners to discuss sustainable development, access to information and programming, business and regulatory tools, and engagement and capacity-building in the natural resources and energy sectors.

Forestry remains a vital component of the economy in New Brunswick and across all our Nations. I recently attended the Canadian Council of Forestry Ministers' (CCFM) annual forum to strengthen relationships with federal, provincial, and territorial forestry ministers. The AFN will continue to work with the CCFM Secretariat to advance First Nations forestry priorities over the coming year, leading up to the next forum.

The AFN continues to advocate for the expansion of trade-related economic opportunities and market access for First Nations goods and services both internationally and inter-nation. This includes promoting Indigenous general exception chapters in trade and investment agreements and ensuring appropriate support for First Nations businesses. It also includes support for First Nations representation on the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Arrangement (IPETCA) Partnership Council. I was appointed to the IPETCA Partnership Council by the National Chief in July 2024 and continue to support international Indigenous collaboration through the Council. The last IPETCA meeting took place in Lima, Peru, in November 2024, where I participated alongside support staff from the AFN.

The AFN reviewed the Pay Equity Act and the Employment Equity Act to contribute to the Employment Equity Act Review Task Force. Additionally, the Economic Development Sector is working with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to establish a long-term transfer funding





Regional Chiefs' Reports



agreement for the Indigenous Labour Market Information (ILMI) Survey and Skills Inventory initiative, aiming to make it a permanent feature for First Nations Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) agreement holders by April 1, 2026. We are also working with First Nations ISET holders to develop a business case supporting this initiative as a permanent component.

The AFN and the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA), in collaboration with other national Indigenous economic organizations, have developed a First Nations-led procurement body known as the First Nations Procurement Authority (FNPA). FNPA was incorporated on May 1, 2025, and held its inaugural Board Meeting on May 6, 2025, in Gatineau, Quebec.

National Portfolio #3 – Charter Renewal

The Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal (CCOCR) was established through Resolution 05/2017, *Chiefs Committee on AFN Charter Renewal*, with a mandate to consult with First Nations about the structure of the AFN and to assist in developing viable options for restructuring.

In recent years, the CCOCR has overseen amendments to the Charter to update the National Chief election rules, clarify the process for establishing quorum during Assemblies, and, while commissioning a preliminary financial audit, which concluded that a 10-year forensic audit of AFN finances was not warranted, supported the implementation of several improvements to the AFN's financial policies.

The CCOCR's current mandate, outlined in Resolution 35/2023, *Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal – Engagement on Charter Report*, directs the committee to engage with the AFN Executive Committee, Secretariat, Regions, First Nations leadership, citizens, staff, and advisors in the development of a charter report. Committee members have been conducting regional consultations to identify priority topics for the CCOCR to address, which will form the foundation for further engagement under Resolution 35/2023. Recent discussion topics include whether to introduce fees for Chiefs and Proxies at Assemblies, and how to strengthen the role of Chiefs Committees in reviewing draft resolutions.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

With the election of the Holt government in November 2024, the political climate in New Brunswick has shifted significantly, and the provincial government's willingness to engage with First Nations has increased. Given the ongoing crises our communities continue to face, it is imperative that we act collectively to strengthen our resources and advocate effectively. I encourage our leadership to foster unity and cohesiveness, and to prioritize and advance the First Nations agenda. Together, we can ensure meaningful progress and lasting impact for our communities.

Woliwon, Wela'liq, Thank you!



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe, Prince Edward Island

Kwe', it is an honour to present this year's Annual Report from the Prince Edward Island (PEI) Office of the Regional Chief. This report reflects our collective efforts, challenges, and progress as we continue to advocate for the rights, voices, and futures of the Mi'kmaq people of Epekwitk.

Introduction

Over the past year, the PEI Office of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Chief has concentrated on advancing key priorities for the Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk, including the protection of our rights, language, culture, lands, and environment. We have collaborated closely with Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, national AFN leadership, governments, and partners to ensure that Mi'kmaq voices are both heard and respected. Covering areas from housing and climate to economic development and reconciliation, this report presents the progress we have made and outlines the path ahead. I remain committed to strong advocacy and collaboration that strengthens our communities and builds a better future for generations to come.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

As the AFN Regional Chief for PEI, it has been a meaningful first year of learning, engagement, and strategic participation in key national and regional spaces. My primary commitment remains to the First Nations of Epekwitk, Lennox Island, and Abegweit, and to representing our voices, needs, and priorities with strength and clarity at all levels.

1. Health Transformation

Over the past year, I have participated in several national meetings and roundtables on health transformation. These gatherings have been incredibly valuable, enabling me to gain insights into how other regions work towards First Nations-led health systems. I am dedicated to collaborating with our PEI Chiefs to continually advance a stronger, culturally grounded health system for our people, one that reflects our unique needs and traditions.

2. Infrastructure Equity

Infrastructure remains one of the most pressing concerns for our communities. I have participated in key national discussions on infrastructure gaps and funding inequities. These conversations have helped me better understand the structural barriers that PEI First Nations, and many others across the country face. I will continue to bring this knowledge forward to support solutions that ensure fair and equitable infrastructure investment, both here in Epekwitk and nationally.

*Proud to see Two Spirit and
First Nations voices from PEI
reflected and uplifted through
AFN's impactful regional work.
– Schurman Peters, Abegweit
First Nation*



Regional Chiefs' Reports



3. Housing

While great strides have been made in this area, housing has consistently been identified as a critical need by First Nations in PEI. Throughout the year, I have engaged in national housing discussions to listen, learn, and ensure that the voices of Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations are present and respected. These discussions have offered valuable insights into emerging strategies and funding opportunities that can support our communities. Moving forward, I will continue to work with our leadership to strengthen community-led housing solutions that are rooted in our realities and driven by our priorities.

Having strong PEI representation at AFN ensures our voices are heard and our priorities stay at the forefront. – AFN Youth Representative, Kiara LaBobe

4. Governance Engagement and Regional Advocacy

Throughout the year, I have remained highly engaged in representing the priorities of Epekwitk through regular in-person and virtual meetings, ensuring First Nations in PEI are heard at national tables. I have maintained close contact with First Nations leadership and actively advocated at forums including the AFN Chiefs Assemblies, sector tables, and policy sessions.

I have also supported regional governance work by offering insight and presence at various national governance discussions and contributing to strategy development around inherent rights, accountability, and self-determination. Ensuring PEI's unique perspective is reflected in broader AFN governance conversations is a responsibility I take seriously and will continue to prioritize.

5. Climate Leadership and Action

In October 2024, I was honoured to deliver opening remarks and participate in the Atlantic Policy Congress Climate Leadership and Action Conference. This conference brought together Indigenous leadership, youth, knowledge holders, and environmental experts to build stronger regional climate strategies. I also took part in several national AFN climate gathering, contributing ideas and amplifying the urgent call for Indigenous-led approaches to climate resilience.



6. Economic Development

Economic development continues to be a success story for First Nations in PEI. Our communities continue to make positive steps in entrepreneurship, fisheries, tourism, and other key sectors. I have participated in various meetings and forums focused on economic development to ensure we continue to learn from others, explore new opportunities, and sustain our momentum. I will remain committed to supporting continued progress, advocating for new funding streams, and highlighting the innovation shown by PEI First Nations.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



7. International Engagement

In March 2025, I was proud to represent Epekwitk at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York City. This event allowed me to support international conversations on Indigenous rights, gender equity, and leadership. Participation in forums like these strengthens our visibility and ensures Mi'kmaq voices are present on the global stage.

As I complete my first year as Regional Chief, I am grateful for the support and guidance provided by the PEI Chiefs and Councils. While much work has been accomplished, important issues and promising ideas remain that I hope to further develop in partnership with our leadership. These include concepts around land recognition, water governance, and enhanced community engagement, which I will discuss further with the PEI Executive and our communities in the coming months.

Together, we are building momentum. I remain committed to listening, learning, and leading with purpose on behalf of the Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk.



National Portfolio 1 – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People

As AFN PEI Regional Chief and portfolio holder for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+), this first year has been both powerful and deeply eye-opening. This is a national crisis, one that continues to devastate families and communities from coast to coast.

I am very honoured to be part of AFN Knowledge Keeper Council, sharing our Mi'kmaq way of life across this beautiful nation.

Attending the many events on topics such as education, Child & Families, water, climate change, MMIWG2+ people, and so much more, it's an honour to represent Epekwitk! – Epekwitk Knowledge Keeper, Judy Clark

In July 2024, I stood in solidarity with the Harris family during a national media interview, following the verdict confirming the serial murders of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Rebecca Contois. In October 2024, I participated in the AWA Spirit Walk for Leona, honouring the families of missing and murdered women in PEI and across the country.

At the IFPT Roundtable in January 2025, I spoke on the importance of Indigenous data sovereignty and the need for culturally-informed data collection. Without community-led data, policies risk being ineffective. I also addressed how human trafficking reveals systemic failures, particularly affecting Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQI+ people in rural and remote areas.

In March 2025, I provided welcoming remarks at the National Virtual Forum on the Calls for Justice and later offered brief remarks at the UNCSW69 AFN Networking Dinner in New York. I also met with the PEI Indigenous Relations Secretariat, where I was invited to sit on the province's MMIWG Indigenous Working Group.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



On May 5, 2025, I spoke at my second Red Dress Day event in Epekwitk, where I emphasized that it has now been six years since the National Inquiry's Final Report. Out of 231 Calls for Justice, only a small number have seen real implementation. I stated clearly: talk is done, action must begin.

I remain committed to pushing for real action, stronger protections, and consequences for those who cause harm. The time is now, we must do better.

The Path Ahead

As we look ahead, the PEI Office of the AFN Regional Chief remains focused on strengthening our voice and securing meaningful outcomes for the Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk. Key priorities will include advancing First Nations-led climate action, protecting our rights to land and water, expanding clean energy opportunities, and ensuring

our language and culture continue to thrive for future generations. We will also press for stronger supports in housing, mental health, and community infrastructure, areas that directly impact the well-being of our families.

Moving forward, we will continue working alongside AFN, Lennox Island, and Abegweit First Nations, and all chiefs across Turtle Island, supporting their leadership while advocating for federal and provincial accountability. A major focus will be ensuring that Mi'kmaq voices lead policy development at every table, from climate strategies to economic planning.

We also plan to deepen partnerships with youth, Elders, and grassroots community members to ensure their voices guide our path. Through unity, strategic advocacy, and respect for our traditions, we can build a future rooted in our rights, knowledge, and resilience. Together, we move forward, as strong, sovereign Peoples of this land.

Conclusion

Together, we've made meaningful progress to protecting Mi'kmaq rights, voices, and future. With continued unity and advocacy, we will build stronger communities rooted in culture, language, and land. The journey continues, guided by our ancestors, inspired by our youth, and driven by our shared vision for Epekwitk.

Wela'lioq, Together, we move forward in strength and unity.

Epekwitk found a phenomenal leader in Wendell who leads with compassion and resilience. We are proudly represented at AFN now." – Richard Lush, Lennox Island First Nation



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Francis Verreault-Paul, Quebec-Labrador

I am honoured to present the 2024–2025 Annual Report for the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL), my first as Regional Chief.

Introduction

The well-being of First Nations and the respect for ancestral and Treaty rights are what consistently drive and unite our Assembly, the AFNQL. This is the mandate we have received from our people, those who live in our communities and in urban areas, and it is our collective mandate. However, in today's political climate, our relationships with other levels of government, particularly the provincial government, consume a significant amount of time, energy, and human resources that could otherwise be dedicated to our own priorities.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

Relations between Quebec-Labrador First Nations and the Quebec provincial government are often difficult. Despite several motions by the Quebec National Assembly committing to recognize the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), the government has still not integrated the UN Declaration into its provincial legislation. Since becoming Regional Chief of the AFNQL, I have expressed to the Quebec government my desire to develop a new approach based on "legislative reconciliation," a concept developed by Professor Naomi Metallic, a member of the Listuguj First Nation. This concept refers to the legislative powers of governments to recognize, protect, and implement the ancestral rights of First Nations.

We have approached the Quebec government with this renewed approach. Some positive results are expected, but there remains considerable reluctance on Quebec's part to move forward with formal and textual recognition of ancestral rights. To date, Quebec's legislative language continues to rely on archaic or non-committal terms when addressing the promotion and protection of First Nations' ancestral rights.

In practical terms, most First Nations concerns are not being addressed. Regarding consultation on the government's strategy for woodland caribou, an endangered species, the Superior Court concluded that Quebec did not act in accordance with the honour of the Crown and therefore acted in bad faith. This ruling was issued in June 2024, and Quebec has yet to unveil a strategy for woodland caribou.

The provincial government has used every legal means at its disposal, up to the Supreme Court of Canada, to try to invalidate federal legislation and render First Nations laws inoperative. While the Supreme Court largely confirmed the validity and relevance of the Act, the provincial government has delayed its implementation for four years and has shown little concern for the harm caused to First Nations children. Quebec continues to obstruct its application through administrative and procedural tactics.



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At the time of this Assembly, our teams are actively working on a Quebec bill that would amend the province's forest regulations. The adoption of this bill would, among other consequences, reduce Quebec's accountability to First Nations by granting more powers to the forestry industry, allowing it to operate on quasi-privatized territories for industry benefit. It would also significantly weaken First Nations' sovereignty over their territories by making it more difficult to exercise ancestral rights that remain unrecognized in law.

As for the federal government, the arrival of a new administration and shifting international

conditions bring new challenges. Given the Canadian government's stated commitment to advancing natural resource development, including oil, and infrastructure for resource transportation, the free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations is essential. During the last federal election campaign, the AFNQL focused its communications on the full implementation of the UN Declaration, which continues to experience delays.

Finally, since the beginning of my term, the Chiefs and Grand Chiefs of the AFNQL have consistently raised the issues of underfunding and the lack of culturally safe and secure policing in their communities. The addiction crisis, a key indicator of community health, compels us to continue demanding an end to discrimination and underfunding of First Nations police services.

National Portfolio #1

The AFNQL is actively engaged in defending and affirming the rights and ancestral titles of First Nations. Several concerns remain regarding the Quebec legislature's respect for the constitutional framework of ancestral rights in its various laws, particularly those relating to land, resources, and energy, as well as its recognition of the UN Declaration and the Declaration on the Rights of First Nations to Ancestral Languages. Quebec's forestry regulations remain a major area of concern for the AFNQL, as the full scope of First Nations' ancestral rights has yet to be recognized in this context.

National Portfolio #2

The AFNQL is working to strengthen its relationship with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to secure the department's support for the transfer of responsibilities process, ensuring full recognition of governance and self-determination rights. The AFNQL is also focused on ensuring that regional realities are reflected in the final agreement on First Nations child and family services. We continue to advocate for government recognition and respect for First Nations legislation and law enforcement, particularly in matters related to children and families.



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National Portfolio #3 – First Nations Policing

The AFNQL defends the critical role and importance of First Nations policing. The structural underfunding of police services is a major concern for First Nations in Quebec and Labrador. Our efforts are focused on achieving recognition of First Nations policing as an essential service, which is necessary to respond to the addiction crisis in our communities and broader public safety challenges. Correspondence has been shared with the Prime Minister and federal Ministers, stressing the urgent need for legislation in this area.

The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

As Regional Chief of the AFNQL, I will continue to advocate for a respectful government-to-government relationship. Regardless of the issue at hand, respect for First Nations ancestral and Treaty rights, as well as the inherent right to self-government, must be the foundation of all discussions.

Conclusion

I hope our Annual General Assembly will be productive in advancing the respect and protection of our ancestral and Treaty rights, for the benefit of our First Nations, our children, our families, and the seven generations to come.

*With respect and kindness,
Francis Verreault-Paul, Regional Chief of Quebec-Labrador.*





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Regional Chief Abram Benedict, Ontario

Aanii, Boozhoo, Kwekwe, Shekoli, Sekoh, Waachiyaa

On behalf of the 133 First Nations in Ontario, I am pleased to contribute to this Annual Report, which provides an update on the ongoing work by my office, our region, and the portfolios in which I participate in.

In the Office of the Ontario Regional Chief, we are working with a vision for change and are committed to betterment of First Nations in Ontario. Over the first year of my term, several files emerged as priorities for the majority of the communities. Through conversation with leadership and government officials, we continue to work together to make progress and advance our common interests.

Our office continues to work on priority issues as mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly. We continue to push forward to ensure the current governments address the issues and concerns affecting First Nations.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

As I complete my first year as Ontario Regional Chief, the Chiefs of Ontario and Regional Chief's Office have been very active over the past year. We look forward to working with the AFN Executive and the Chiefs in Ontario in the coming year.

Child Welfare Final Settlement Agreement

On February 26, 2025, the Chiefs of Ontario hosted a Special Chiefs Assembly to consider the agreement with Canada, Chiefs of Ontario, and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) for long-term reform to the First Nation Child and Family Services Program in Ontario. Under the direction of Ontario Chiefs, our team at the Chiefs of Ontario, along with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, have been working tirelessly to conclude a draft agreement with Canada to achieve long-term reform to the child and family services program.

Our leadership was clear: discrimination against children and families must end now. They need the right tools to end decades of discrimination so that they can continue to build and advance our Nations while supporting our most valuable resource, our children. On February 26, 2025, Chiefs overwhelmingly voted in favour of accepting the proposed reform agreement with Canada.

This agreement will bring \$8.5 billion to our communities over its duration, allowing them to implement meaningful reforms on their own terms. This includes resources for vital programs like prevention, which will be directed by the Nations themselves to best support their children and families.





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This is a significant milestone. However, much work remains to achieve true holistic support for our children and families. The Chiefs of Ontario will continue to advocate for and advance modernization and changes to the colonial, obsolete programs that our families endure. We will continue to support our communities as they advance their inherent jurisdiction, and we will work with partners and governments to bring about meaningful change.

Jay Treaty Border Alliance

Formerly named the Northern Tribal Border Alliance, the Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA) was formed in 2017 by tribal governments and First Nations communities to collaborate on our efforts to protect our rights preserved in the Jay Treaty, create effective working relationships with the United States Customs and Border Protection and Canada Border Services Agency, and address issues that are unique to the United States-Canadian border.

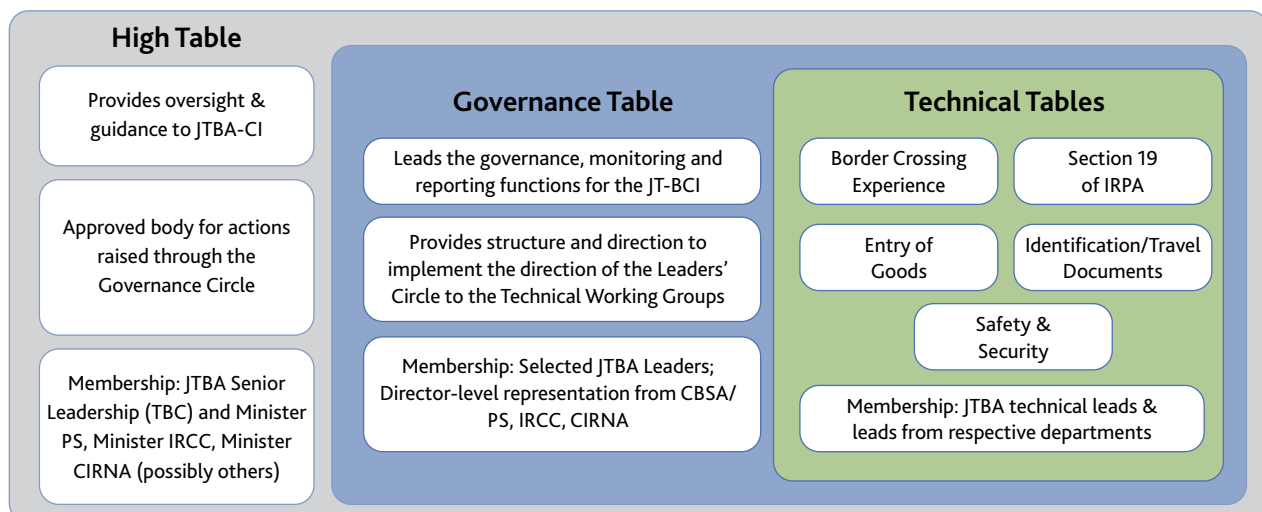
JTBA is working through a collaborative process with the Government of Canada to bring forward legislative changes that allow American-born First Nations people the right of entry into Canada. The JTBA has been working with Canada to make legislative reforms that will ease entry into Canada for our people. We will continue to advance this work and jointly address the many challenges the international border creates.

The JTBA governance framework include five technical tables:

- Border Crossing Experience
- Entry of Goods
- Identification/Travel Documents
- Safety and Security
- Right of Entry

The framework also includes the Governance Table and High table. In the diagram below, the technical tables feed into the tables right to left.

Jay Treaty Border Alliance Collaboration Initiative – Governance Framework





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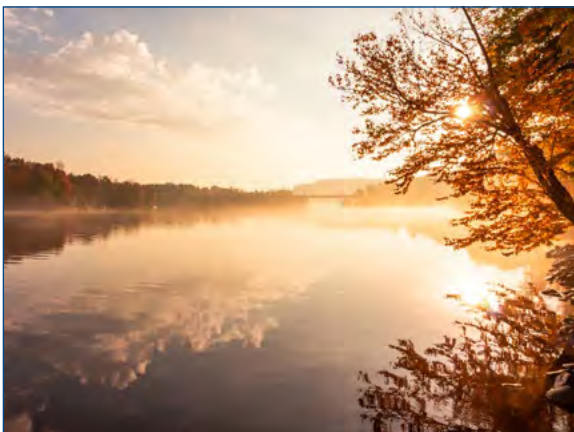


National Portfolio #1 – Lands, Territories, and Resources

The Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources (CCoLTR) focuses on supporting First Nations' self-determination over their lands and securing fair compensation for breaches of the Crown's obligations to First Nations. Key priorities in support of this focus include advocating for reforms and improvements to the Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy and the Specific Claims Policy. The CCoLTR continues to provide guidance to the AFN on the re-design of the ATR Policy, while ensuring First Nations are fully engaged in development of any new policy framework. The AFN, in collaboration with First Nations, continues work to co-develop reforms to the Specific Claims Policy. The AFN, with guidance from the CCoLTR, will continue to meet with the Government of Canada to co-develop a consensus-based model for an Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specific Claims.

National Portfolio #2 – Clean Drinking Water

The primary issue for this portfolio is Bill C-61, First Nations Clean Water Act. Unfortunately, on January 7, 2025, Prime Minister Trudeau prorogued parliament, and Bill C-61 to die on the order paper. Prior to the prorogation, Bill C-61 had garnered support from all parties and advanced to Report Stage in the House of Commons. Following the election, the bill's future remains uncertain, and further delays continue to perpetuate the injustices faced by First Nations, many of whom still live under long-term boil water advisories, some for decades. The passage of Bill C-61 is critical to meet basic human rights standards and support economic reconciliation, as it enables First Nations to develop sustainable infrastructure essential for their health and well-being. Work will continue to advocate and pressure the federal government to commit to working with First Nations on water issues and to reintroduce Bill C-61 once the mandate letters are available.



The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

I'm truly honoured to be part of the Chiefs of Ontario as the Ontario Regional Chief. I acknowledge you have a lot of decisions to make on a day-to-day basis with your Councils for your community. There have been challenges, of course, but wins too. I look forward to celebrating next year's achievements as we continue working to strengthen our communities.

I want to thank everyone who works to gather data, sets up meetings, drafts briefing notes, and ensures we have the most up-to-date information required to fulfill our mandates.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Throughout the year, I'll be sure to keep leadership informed on policy initiatives, community engagement efforts, and collaborative work happening within the Chiefs of Ontario through my monthly reports, which provide timely updates, strategic insights, and key developments impacting First Nations across Ontario. Travel safe, if you are travelling, and stay safe.

Conclusion:

In closing, I want to highlight my supportive and collaborative work to advocate for the progressive and visionary leadership of First Nations across the region. In the coming year, Ontario will continue to follow the direction of the Chiefs in Ontario and from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Niawenko:wa
Abram Benedict
Ontario Regional Chief





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Willie Moore, Manitoba

Tansi, I am humbled to present my first annual report as the newly elected Regional Chief for Manitoba, as of July 24, 2024. On behalf of our Chiefs, Elders, Councils, and communities, it is with deep humility and honour that we welcome you to our territory, the ancestral lands that have nourished our people since time immemorial. We are gathered here not just as leaders, but as caretakers of our Nations, our languages, our traditions, and our shared future. Wishing everyone a great Assembly.

Introduction

Representing 63 proud First Nations communities in Manitoba, I carry with me the voices of our Elders, youth, leaders, and grassroots members, voices rooted in deep traditions and sacred responsibilities passed down through generations. Together, we continue to advocate for our rights, protect our lands and waters, and ensure that our Nations can thrive on our own terms.

This year has brought important steps forward, as well as new challenges to confront. Whether advancing housing and infrastructure, supporting families and children, or defending our sovereignty, the work we do is grounded in unity and Nationhood.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

Over the past year, the AFN Manitoba Region has remained focused on advancing the priorities identified by the 63 First Nations we are honoured to represent. Our work has been grounded in listening to community voices and acting with accountability, unity, and respect for our unique identities, histories, and governance systems.

First Nations Child and Family Well-Being

Ensuring First Nations control over child welfare remains a critical priority. We continue to advocate for the full implementation and resourcing of Bill C-92, supporting Nations as they assert jurisdiction and restore traditional kinship systems to protect and nurture our children within their home communities.

Housing, Infrastructure, and Clean Water

Access to safe housing, clean drinking water, and essential infrastructure remains a human right and a top concern. The AFN Manitoba Region has worked with federal and provincial partners to push for long-term, sustainable funding that meets actual community needs, not imposed timelines or colonial frameworks.





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Health

The AFN Manitoba Region supports community-led health systems built on traditional knowledge and self-determination. We have continued to engage in health transformation initiatives to ensure culturally safe care, better outcomes, and equitable access across all regions.

Climate Action and Land Stewardship

Our Nations are at the forefront of protecting the lands and waters that sustain us. The AFN Manitoba Region has supported environmental leadership, climate adaptation strategies, and land reclamation efforts, rooted in the sacred responsibilities we hold as stewards of the land.

Education and Language Revitalization

We are advancing First Nations-led education systems, with a focus on language revitalization, land-based learning, and curriculum that reflects our worldviews, histories, and Nations. Language is the heart of identity, and revitalizing it is an act of sovereignty.

Justice and Policing Reform

Manitoba First Nations continue to lead calls for justice reform and community-based policing that ensures safety and respects our jurisdiction. We support the establishment of First Nations justice systems that reflect restorative and traditional approaches. Throughout the year, our Region has remained active at all tables, advocated in bilateral meetings, and supported the leadership of Chiefs and Councils. These efforts are grounded in our collective vision: strong, sovereign, and thriving First Nations for generations to come.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

As we move forward, the AFN Manitoba Region remains grounded in our responsibilities to our people, our lands, and our future generations. The 63 First Nations in our region are leading powerful efforts to reclaim jurisdiction, protect our rights, and rebuild strong, self-determined Nations rooted in our languages, cultures, and laws.





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Our path forward must be led by us—by our Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, and leadership. We will continue to push for the full implementation of our inherent and Treaty rights across every sector, including child welfare, health, education, housing, and justice. We are advocating for sustainable, equitable funding models that reflect the true needs of our communities—First Nations-led plans and priorities. Language revitalization, land protection, and economic development are central pillars of this journey. This work requires unity across Nations, collaboration with other regions, and accountability at all levels of government. We are building a future where our children can grow up proud of who they are and in healthy communities. The path forward is one of strength, sovereignty, and Nationhood. Together, we will continue to rise, restore, and reclaim what has always been ours.

Conclusion

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our communities, Chiefs, and regional leadership for their tireless dedication. As we move forward together, let this report serve not only as a reflection of our work, but as a reminder that our future is as strong as our commitment to one another.

*We thank you for joining us.
Safe travels to your home fires. Ekosi.*





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Regional Chief Bobby Cameron, Saskatchewan

Tansi, Bedlanet'e, Hau, tonesked yaun? On behalf of the 74 First Nations, Veterans, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Executive, Staff, and Senate, I extend greetings from the ancestral lands and unceded territories of the Cree, Denesytiné, Saulteaux, the Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota in kisiskâciwan (Saskatchewan).

Introduction:

The critical importance of education as a Treaty Right for First Nations reinforces the need for sovereignty, governance, and sufficient funding. It sets the stage for advocating a strong, culturally responsive education system that upholds language, identity, and well-being.

Education is an inherent Treaty Right of First Nations people. As sovereign nations, First Nations have the fundamental right to govern all aspects of education, from early childhood to post-secondary. The Crown holds full responsibility for ensuring First Nations students receive equitable, high-quality education, as outlined in Treaty agreements. Our framework for educational reform establishes clear roles and responsibilities, strengthens governance and accountability, and emphasizes the necessity of committed and sufficient funding. These elements are vital to ensuring that First Nations students receive the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

Through national collaboration and advocacy, we continue to advance First Nations education, providing political direction, advice, and recommendations. Our vision prioritizes equitable, safe, and culturally responsive education that empowers First Nations students. Recognizing that language and culture are essential to identity and well-being, we advocate for education systems that integrate Indigenous knowledge and traditions. By ensuring First Nations control over education and securing adequate funding, we can foster learning environments that support the success of First Nations students, strengthen communities, and enhance quality of life.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

1. Treaty Obligation and Jurisdiction

- Ensuring the Crown fully upholds its obligations to provide education as a Treaty Right.
- Advocating for First Nations control over education systems to reflect sovereignty and self-determination.

2. Funding Equity and Sustainability

- Addressing chronic underfunding and securing long-term, sustainable financial commitments for First Nations education.
- Pushing for funding models that reflect actual costs and needs, including infrastructure, educators, and curriculum development.



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3. Culturally Responsive Curriculum

- Developing and implementing education frameworks that integrate Indigenous languages, traditions, and knowledge systems.
- Resisting imposed provincial and federal curricula that do not align with First Nations perspectives and histories.

4. Capacity Building and Educator Development

- Increasing support for First Nations educators, including training, certification pathways, and professional development.
- Strengthening recruitment and retention strategies for Indigenous teachers and leadership in schools.

5. Access and Success for Students

- Tackling barriers such as geographic isolation, transportation, and technology gaps that hinder student access to quality education.
- Supporting student well-being by addressing mental health, cultural identity, and community-based learning approaches.

6. Policy Advocacy and Negotiation

- Engaging in national and regional negotiations to secure commitments on education funding and Treaty rights.
- Collaborating with Indigenous leadership and organizations to present unified policy recommendations.

7. Community-Led Education Models

- Supporting the creation of First Nations-led education authorities to govern local schools and curriculum decisions.
- Expanding language immersion programs and cultural initiatives within schools.

8. Capacity Development Programs

- Offering scholarships, mentorship programs, and specialized training opportunities for First Nations students pursuing careers in education.
- Strengthening partnerships with post-secondary institutions to improve Indigenous representation and success.

9. Data Collection and Reporting

- Establishing mechanisms to track education outcomes and identify gaps in funding, success rates, and resource allocation.
- Using data-driven approaches to support advocacy efforts for policy changes.



Education is not a privilege; it is a Treaty Right. First Nations have the inherent right to govern and shape their own education systems, ensuring future generations thrive in their culture, identity, and knowledge.



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10. Public Awareness and Engagement

- Educating the broader public and policymakers on the significance of education as a Treaty Right.
- Promoting grassroots movements and campaigns to amplify First Nations voices on education reform.

National Portfolio #1 – First Nations K-12 and Post-Secondary Education

Education is a fundamental Treaty Right for First Nations, ensuring equitable access to quality learning opportunities from early childhood through post-secondary education. However, systemic challenges persist, requiring urgent reforms to meet the needs of First Nations students.

K-12 Education

First Nations K-12 education faces ongoing disparities in funding, infrastructure, and curriculum. Many First Nations schools receive significantly less funding than provincial counterparts, affecting resources, teacher salaries, and classroom conditions. Additionally, curricula often lack Indigenous perspectives, limiting cultural relevance and engagement for students. Language and cultural programs are essential for preserving identity and strengthening academic success, yet they remain underfunded or inconsistently supported. Efforts to strengthen governance through First Nations-led education authorities aim to enhance local control and improve outcomes.

Post-Secondary Education

First Nations students pursuing higher education often encounter barriers such as financial constraints, limited access to support services, and systemic inequities within institutions. The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) provides financial assistance, but demand far exceeds available funding. Expanding scholarships, mentorship initiatives, and culturally relevant academic supports is critical for increasing graduation rates and career success.

National Portfolio #2 – Unilateral Education Programming Decisions by Indigenous Services Canada



Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has historically made unilateral decisions regarding education programming for First Nations, often without meaningful consultation with Indigenous leadership, educators, or communities. These top-down policies frequently fail to address the unique needs, aspirations, and cultural foundations of First Nations students, leading to systemic challenges in educational outcomes.

One significant concern is the imposition of federal funding models that do not reflect the realities of First Nations schools, including the actual costs of delivering quality, culturally relevant education. Funding decisions are often made without transparency, resulting in



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financial uncertainty and gaps in crucial programs such as language revitalization, mental health support, and student transportation. Additionally, ISC has introduced standardized policies that align with provincial systems rather than recognizing First Nations' inherent right to self-determined education. These policies may include curriculum mandates, administrative structures, and reporting requirements that do not reflect Indigenous knowledge systems or governance models. Such unilateral actions undermine efforts to establish First Nations-controlled education authorities that prioritize cultural preservation and academic excellence.

National Portfolio #3 – Indigenous Education Infrastructure Capital Reform

Indigenous education infrastructure plays a critical role in ensuring safe, equitable, and culturally responsive learning environments for First Nations students. Historically, inadequate investment in school facilities, technology, and essential resources has contributed to disparities in educational outcomes. The current push for infrastructure capital reform aims to address these gaps and build sustainable, high-quality spaces for Indigenous learners.

One of the key issues in infrastructure reform is securing equitable and long-term funding. Many First Nations schools lack proper maintenance, modern facilities, and access to technology, leading to overcrowding and unsafe conditions. The federal government has committed funds toward infrastructure improvement; however, these allocations often fall short of actual needs, leaving many communities without sufficient support. Another focus of reform is the construction of culturally relevant learning spaces. First Nations leaders advocate for schools designed to reflect Indigenous knowledge systems, including land-based learning centers, language immersion classrooms, and spaces that honor traditional practices. These initiatives ensure education remains aligned with cultural identity while enhancing student engagement.

Furthermore, addressing climate resilience and sustainability is crucial. Many First Nations schools face environmental challenges such as flooding, poor insulation, and aging facilities. Infrastructure reform must prioritize durable, energy-efficient construction that meets community needs while ensuring long-term sustainability.

Indigenous education is the foundation of identity, culture, and sovereignty. Honoring our knowledge systems ensures a future of strength and resilience.

National Portfolio #4 – First Nations National Indigenous Gaming Regulator

The development of a First Nations National Indigenous Gaming Regulator is a crucial step in ensuring First Nations sovereignty over gaming operations and revenues. First Nations have long advocated for self-governance in gaming, recognizing its potential to generate economic growth, fund essential services, and strengthen community development. A national regulatory body would provide oversight, ensuring that gaming activities align with First Nations values, legal frameworks, and economic priorities.





Regional Chiefs' Reports



One key objective of the regulator would be to establish consistent regulations across First Nations gaming enterprises. Currently, policies vary by province, often requiring First Nations to navigate complex legal and jurisdictional challenges. A national framework would streamline licensing, compliance, and revenue-sharing agreements, reinforcing First Nations control over gaming revenues. Another critical focus is economic reinvestment and sustainability. A dedicated regulatory body would ensure that gaming proceeds directly benefit First Nations communities, funding infrastructure, education, healthcare, and cultural programs. Transparent financial management and governance structures would be necessary to protect First Nations interests and prevent

external interference. Additionally, the regulator would oversee ethical gaming practices, promoting responsible gambling initiatives, addressing addiction concerns, and enforcing fair play standards. Cultural considerations, including the integration of Indigenous traditions and values into gaming establishments, would also be a priority.

By establishing a First Nations-led gaming regulatory framework, First Nations can enhance economic independence, uphold sovereignty, and ensure gaming revenues contribute to long-term prosperity. Moving forward, collaboration with leadership and legal experts will be key in bringing this initiative to fruition.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

Strengthening First Nations control over education, securing equitable funding, and prioritizing First Nations knowledge integration are key to addressing disparities. Sustainable reforms will empower First Nations students, ensuring education systems reflect their rights, cultures, and aspirations.

Meaningful engagement with First Nations leaders is essential. True educational sovereignty requires ISC to support Indigenous-led frameworks, ensuring First Nations governments shape policies and funding structures that best serve their students. Advocacy for equitable funding, First Nations governance over education, and culturally responsive programming remains critical to addressing these unilateral decisions and upholding education as a Treaty Right.

First Nations-led decision-making and greater governmental commitment to funding are essential. Strengthening infrastructure capital investment will support student success, improve learning environments, and uphold education as a Treaty right.

Conclusion:

We remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for the protection of inherent and Treaty rights to education. Our efforts will continue to advance First Nation jurisdiction over First Nation education, ensuring communities maintain control over their learning systems. Through strategic collaboration, we will develop and implement effective strategies across First Nation and other education networks, reinforcing the foundation for Indigenous-led education.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Additionally, we will provide political and strategic guidance on First Nation educational matters to key organizations, including the National Indian Education Council (NIEC), the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and the AFN Executive Committee. Our work will support the implementation of recommendations from the NIEC and AFN, driving meaningful change and accountability in First Nations education.

Addressing challenges and advocating for solutions remains a priority. We will continue to identify and resolve issues affecting First Nation education, ensuring policies and frameworks align with the needs, rights, and aspirations of First Nations students. Our ongoing dedication to education reform will strengthen self-determination, cultural preservation, and academic success.

Our unwavering commitment remains centered on protecting our Inherent and Treaty Right to Education and asserting First Nations jurisdiction. As we move forward, we will continue to advocate, strengthen governance, and implement strategies that ensure First Nations control over education. Together, we will uphold the principles of sovereignty, cultural preservation, and academic success for future generations. Let's keep working toward a future where First Nations education is fully respected, recognized, and empowered.



*Indigenous gaming
empowers communities,
strengthens economies,
and upholds
sovereignty—ensuring
that First Nations control
and benefit from their
own gaming enterprises.*



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Terry Teegee, British Columbia

Chiefs, Hereditary Leaders, Knowledge Keepers and youth! Hadih, and greetings from beautiful Lheidli T'enneh territory. On behalf of the 204 First Nations in British Columbia (BC) and the BC Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Board of Directors, I present this report providing an update on the ongoing work in our region as well as in my portfolio areas.

Introduction:

As Regional Chief for BC, I continue to advocate for the inherent title, rights, Treaty rights, and sovereignty of First Nations across our diverse province. The past year has been marked by significant challenges and opportunities, from navigating international trade disputes to advancing climate action and strengthening our economic partnerships. We remain vigilant against provincial and national legislation that undermines First Nations' title and rights. Through the First Nations Leadership Council, we have made progress on key files including emergency management, justice and policing, and housing and homelessness. Our work remains grounded in the principle that decisions affecting First Nations must be made with our free, prior, and informed consent.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

The current political landscape requires a thoughtful and strategic pathway. The international trade dispute initiated by U.S. President Donald Trump represents a conflict between competing colonial powers, neither of which has prioritized First Nations' interests, title, or rights. However, as these colonial countries compete, First Nations continue to build economic strength and advocate for governments to meet the minimum standards as set out in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).

Our climate emergency response has intensified as wildfires increase across the country, leading to a state of emergency. With the release of the BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda, titled "*From Vision to Action*," which included over two years of community dialogue across British Columbia, we have developed 24 high-level recommendations across eleven themes. This work reflects localized priority actions aimed at driving transformational change to address the climate crisis while empowering meaningful First Nations involvement in national climate governance.

The *Building Climate Resilience from Indigenous Perspectives* (BCRIP) project represents our international climate advocacy. This four-year initiative, funded by Global Affairs Canada, connects First Nations in BC with Indigenous peoples in Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and Guatemala to implement Indigenous-led nature-based solutions and share knowledge for joint climate action.

How can we participate in trade missions to promote resource development when this government has just rammed through legislation that tramples our rights and threatens our territories? We will not compromise the progress First Nations have made under the Declaration Act and will continue to advocate for its full implementation.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Emergency management has seen significant progress through our negotiations with Canada and BC. We secured \$2.5 million for 34 new full-time Emergency Management Program Coordinator positions and addressed a backlog of 34 unfunded mitigation projects with \$2.8 million in funding. As BC's 2024 wildfire season burned over 1 million hectares, well above the 20-year average, these investments in emergency preparedness remain critical.

Housing and homelessness remain urgent priorities for our citizens and communities. Our 2024 Housing Forum in Kamloops, BC, reinforced the need for \$349.2 billion to close the infrastructure gap between First Nations and the rest of Canada by 2030. We're advancing the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council's framework and establishing the BC Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee to ensure program delivery aligns with our needs.

Language revitalization faces ongoing funding challenges. BCAFN Resolution 06/2024 rejected the proposed Regional Allocation Funding Model, calling on BC to allocate resources for the protection and revitalization of First Nations languages. At the federal level, we're supporting efforts to file a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal regarding the chronic underfunding of First Nations languages.

BCAFN fisheries advocacy has focused on the Draft Salmon Aquaculture Transition Plan. 2029 has been identified as the deadline for completing the transition away from open-pen fish farms. As co-chair of the AFN National Fisheries Committee, I have advocated for action on the Marshall Decision implementation and alignment of the *Fisheries Act* with the UN Declaration.

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit+ file remains a priority. Our representatives participated in the third national roundtable, where we heard concerning announcements about discontinued funding for the National Advisory Committee on Residential Schools Missing Children and Unmarked Burials. This represents a backward step in addressing the ongoing crisis.

The reform of the Provincial Police Act continues through our partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council. Despite delays with the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative, we maintain that reform must align with the UN Declaration. Federally, the crisis of Indigenous deaths at the hands of police led to our call for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing.



It is essential that the governments of BC and Canada take a strong stance against Residential School denialism, by rightfully recognizing this harmful rhetoric as hate speech. Political leaders must acknowledge the gravity of traumas endured by Indigenous peoples at these institutions and must engage with First Nations and respectfully honour the stories of survivors.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



We held our 21st Annual Special Chiefs Assembly on February 26-27, 2025, where we addressed critical issues facing First Nations, including colonial policy impacts, systemic racism, climate crisis effects, and implications of U.S. tariffs. Key discussions included establishing councils for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and women, advancing shared governance with the Canada Water Agency, reform of First Nations Child and Family Services, and calls for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing. 22 resolutions were passed, and the Chiefs and leaders heard from National Chief Cindy Woodhouse, Minister Christine Boyle, and BC Premier David Eby.

National Portfolio #1: *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

The implementation of the UN Declaration remains central to our advocacy. Through our BC-Specific Table on United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) with the Department of Justice, we're developing guidelines to ensure First Nations' rights to self-determination, free, prior, and informed consent, and self-government are reflected in federal law alignment processes. Our work on the Chiefs Committee on UNDA Implementation focuses on developing engagement frameworks to guide Canada's implementation at the national level including ensuring a whole of government approach to implementation. The AFN National Forum on UNDA held in February 2025 generated concrete recommendations, including the creation of an implementation fund, appointment of an independent oversight body, and establishment of a central implementation agency.

We face new challenges from proposed federal "national interest" legislation that threatens to bypass environmental assessments and Indigenous consultation processes. Similar to our opposition to provincial Bills 14 and 15, we oppose this federal initiative that would allow the Cabinet to designate projects as being in the "national interest" and streamline regulatory approvals. This legislation would effectively run roughshod over First Nations title and rights as well as lack the environmental oversight that promotes the protection and conservation of habitat, wildlife and First Nations territories.

National Portfolio #2: *Justice and Policing*

Justice and policing reform remains a critical priority as First Nations continue to face systemic racism and inadequate protection from law enforcement agencies. The national crisis of Indigenous deaths at the hands of police demands immediate action. From August to November 2024 alone, 10 First Nations people died as a result of interactions with RCMP, provincial, or municipal police forces.





Regional Chiefs' Reports



We stand united in our commitment to the safety and dignity of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals. We continue to call for government agencies to coordinate actions, report progress and maintain transparency, and build and sustain genuine partnership in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In response to this ongoing tragedy, I joined the National Chief and Regional Chiefs in calling for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths. This call was supported by resolution at the December AFN Special Chiefs Assembly. Despite over 20 individual inquiries and commissions into police and justice systems since 1989, the Government of Canada has failed to implement substantive changes to address systemic racism in the RCMP and other agencies.

As co-chair of the First Nations Policing Task Force and the Chiefs Committee on Justice, I continue advocating for essential service designation for First Nations Policing Organizations and recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over policing. Our work culminated in the release of the AFN First Nations Justice Strategy in early June, which provides for the revitalization of First Nations laws and legal systems through community-led knowledge exchange, recognition of First Nations jurisdiction, and enforcement of traditional laws, as well as seeking to pursue comprehensive reform of the Canadian criminal justice system across policing, courts, corrections, and legislation. This strategy addresses the crisis of Indigenous overrepresentation in Canada's justice system, where Indigenous people comprise only 5% of the population but nearly one-third of federal inmates. Implementation requires genuine government partnership, distinctions-based approaches, and long-term sustainable funding to transform colonial justice structures while restoring First Nations jurisdiction over justice matters.

National Portfolio #3 : Fisheries

Fisheries remain central to our culture, sustenance, and economies, yet climate change, habitat degradation, and industrial development continue to destroy our ocean and freshwater ecosystems. As co-chair of the AFN National Fisheries Committee for the Pacific Region, I have advanced priorities related to the federal *Aquaculture Act*, specifically advocated for the transition from open-net pen fish farming, and implementation of the Marshall Decision.

The Draft Salmon Aquaculture Transition Plan, released in September 2024, establishes 2029 as the target year for completing the transition away from open pen fish farms. This represents significant progress supported by AFN Resolution 26/2023 and aligns with UNDA Action Plan Measure 44. Together with the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC, we continue advocating that this transition prioritizes First Nations' rights, self-determination, and interests.

Critical concerns remain regarding DFO's lack of progress under the UN Declaration. Despite Canada's 2021 passage of the *United Nations Declaration Act* and release of the National Action Plan identifying DFO as lead



Regional Chiefs' Reports



department for 11 action plan measures, implementation has been slow and inadequate. DFO must bring the *Fisheries Act* and *Ocean's Protection Act* into alignment with the UN Declaration and develop an *Aquaculture Act* meeting these standards.

Our advocacy includes the 5-Year Review of the *Fisheries Act*, implementation of the Marshall Plan, and development of the Restoration Priorities Plan for the Pacific Region. We continue pushing for meaningful First Nations involvement in fisheries governance while protecting the health and sustainability of our sacred salmon and aquatic ecosystems.



The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

The federal election on April 28, 2025, resulted in Mark Carney's Liberal Party winning a fourth consecutive term with 169 seats, forming a minority government. Carney's remarkable comeback is largely attributed to Canadian nationalism surge in response to Trump's threats and tariffs. BCAFN congratulates Prime Minister Carney and his new government however we will continue to advocate that any federal response to Trump's economic policies must respect and uphold First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title, rights, treaty rights and jurisdictions.

We celebrate the election of First Nations members to Parliament, including Ellis Ross-Haisla (Conservative), Billy Morin-Enoch Cree Nation (Conservative), Mandy Gull-Masty-Waswanipi Cree Nation (Liberal), Leah Gazan-Wood Mountain Lakota Nation (NDP), Wade Grant-Musqueam Indian Band (Liberal), and Jaime Battiste-Eskasoni First Nation (Liberal). Their presence strengthens First Nations voices in Parliament during these critical times.

However, we face coordinated threats across Canada from fast-tracking legislation that undermines our rights, titles and jurisdictions. Our path forward requires strengthening Free, Prior and Informed Consent as our fundamental right to self-determination. Through AFN leadership and unified First Nations resistance demonstrated from across the country, we will ensure the UN Declaration implementation includes robust FPIC protections while advancing climate leadership, emergency management frameworks, and economic development alongside our rights protection.

Conclusion:

The work ahead requires our continued collaboration, determination, and unity. Together, we are building a stronger future for First Nations in British Columbia, one that honors our ancestors' sacrifices while ensuring our children inherit communities that are sovereign, prosperous, and culturally vibrant. Mussi Cho.

In solidarity, Mussi Cho!



Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Yukon

Dä`nnch'e!

On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our Yukon First Nation Matriarchs, Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, Youth and community leaders. Your guidance, strength, and support truly embody what it means to be a leader for the Yukon Region.

Introduction

Since 2018, I've had the honour of serving the 14 Yukon First Nations (YFN) as Yukon Regional Chief. The AFN Yukon Regional Office has amplified our Nations' collective voices, rooted in our values and unity.

In 2023, my husband Scott Cavan and I welcomed our daughter, Tayāna Copper-Jane. I extend my heartfelt thanks to former Regional Chief and Knowledge Keeper Mary Jane Jim, who served during my maternity leave, as well as to all who supported our family.

Supporting growing families must remain a priority for all First Nations, ensuring that elected leaders with young families are supported, reflecting our traditional values of caring for families and future generations.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

A New Path Forward

It has been one of the greatest honours of my life to serve as Yukon Regional Chief. To work alongside Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, AFN National Chiefs, Regional Chiefs, and federal officials has been both a privilege and a responsibility I have carried with deep respect. Together, we have hosted more than 20 AFN Yukon Chiefs Summits, held over 100 federal meetings, and attended more than 12 AFN National Assemblies. This work has been both challenging and deeply meaningful, always grounded in the vision, strength, and values of YFN. This journey has shaped me in ways I will carry for life.

The current work to bring the AFN Yukon Regional Office and the Council of YFN (CYFN) together under a single leadership model flows directly from this collective experience. The AFN Yukon Regional Office, like all AFN Regional Offices across the country, has been impacted by ongoing AFN and federal funding cutbacks and lacks a sustainable path forward. Just as important, we know that maintaining two separate regional entities no longer serves the best interests of YFN.





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Leadership requires us to look openly and honestly at an issue and identify the best path forward. Sometimes that path involves significant change and even discomfort. While this new model calls for a different approach, I am confident this is the best decision for our people.

Since 2024, Yukon First Nation Chiefs have provided a clear direction to advance this transition, which will create a more efficient and effective model of governance, strengthen our collective voice, and ensure our advocacy at the national level is fully grounded in who we are as YFN. As part of this work, we are also examining how we engage with the AFN going forward

ensuring our participation reflects Yukon First Nation leadership and priorities.

As I have often shared: we are truly a Yukon that leads. This model amplifies the collective voices of YFN, united, visionary, and rooted in our values. It creates space for stronger, more coordinated advocacy, and ensures YFN are not only heard but are leading the conversation regionally and nationally.

It has been an incredible privilege to walk this path with YFN. I am so proud of what we have built together, and deeply grateful for the trust and opportunity to serve in this role.

Advancing Regional and National Priorities

Alongside the important work of restructuring our governance model, Yukon First Nation Chiefs have continued to advance countless priorities of both regional and national importance including climate change and environmental stewardship, northern defence and security, economic development and reconciliation, modern treaty implementation, and more.

Over the past three years, Yukon First Nation Chiefs have called for greater involvement in shaping northern defence and security policy. In 2023, Yukon Chiefs passed a resolution mandating the AFN Yukon Region to advance Yukon First Nation participation in Arctic sovereignty efforts. To begin this work, the AFN Yukon Office partnered with the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN) to host six virtual open houses with Yukon First Nation leaders and experts, exploring key priorities and perspectives on national defence.

In April, our office partnered with the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce to host the YFN Defence and Security Industries Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon. This two-day event brought together Yukon First Nation governments, businesses, industry leaders, and Crown representatives to explore collaboration and economic opportunities in the defence sector. The conference created a valuable space for building partnerships, advancing economic development, and asserting Yukon First Nation leadership in Arctic defence. Shared priorities included infrastructure development, procurement opportunities, and improving engagement between First





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Strong voices start in our communities. It's time national spaces reflect the realities and strength of the Nations they represent.

Nations and the Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces. The event laid important groundwork to ensure YFN' rights, responsibilities, and Final Agreements are respected as this work moves forward.

Lastly, in May, we were proud to host the inaugural Indigenous post-secondary graduation ceremony with Yukon University celebrating more than 40 Indigenous graduates from Yukon and other Nations. This event has been a collective vision of many, and for me, a personal commitment finally brought to life. It was an inspiring opportunity to honour the accomplishments of so many young leaders. We are pleased to share that funding has been secured to support this event through 2029, with the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate now taking the lead in future coordination.

National Portfolio #1: Environment and Climate Change

Yukon First Nations continue to lead in advancing Yukon First Nation Climate Action through the Reconnection Vision and the first-of-its-kind Yukon First Nation Climate Action Plan, both mandated by Yukon Chiefs. I am especially proud of the climate leadership emerging from Yukon First Nations, particularly from

our Youth. *Reconnection Vision* alumni are now guiding the next phase of this important work by strengthening governance, deepening partnerships, and finding new ways to share their vision beyond the Yukon. Grounded in First Nations values and long-term thinking, their efforts focus on tools, teachings, and relationship-building that foster well-being for both people and the land. From curriculum development to creative projects like podcasts and workshops, these Youth are planting seeds for future generations — with care, clarity, and purpose.

In October 2024, I attended the AFN's 3rd National Climate Change Conference, *Catalyzing First Nations Climate and Conservation Leadership for Transformative Change*, in Calgary, Alberta. The three-day event welcomed over 1,000 participants and featured 50 sessions, — with several led by Yukon First Nations leaders, *Reconnection Vision*, and *Swim and Speak with Salmon*, showcasing First Nations-led approaches to climate action, cultural revitalization, and environmental stewardship. The conference was a powerful and inspiring experience and served as a strong reminder that meaningful climate solutions must be rooted in relationships, place, and Indigenous sovereignty.

In March and April 2025, I attended AFN's Natural Resources Forum and BC AFN's Water Forum in Vancouver, BC. These events underscored the extensive priorities that First Nations have, as well as innovative solutions that balance our right to thrive with our responsibility to protect our water for our future generations. These forums facilitated important dialogue on First Nations' economic development priorities, addressing environmental impacts, as well as First Nations' water stewardship and governance.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



In May 2025, we held an AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) meeting, where discussions focused on evaluating past federal climate strategies and exploring new opportunities under Prime Minister Mark Carney's government. For First Nations across Canada, these developments present both challenges and opportunities. The ACE meeting reaffirmed the critical importance of First Nations leadership in national climate dialogue and the ongoing need to critically assess federal commitments while advocating for policies that align with our rights, knowledge, and priorities. The discussions underscored both the urgency and opportunity for First Nations to help shape transformative climate action grounded in Indigenous worldviews and long-term stewardship.



As portfolio holder, I remain committed to advancing climate policies that are rights-based and that support self-determined environmental stewardship by First Nations. I also encourage all AFN AGA participants to join us in the AFN Water Walk — an important ceremony to honour and raise awareness of the sacred relationship between First Nations and water. Led by Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Youth, this collective effort reminds us that water is life — and that our climate leadership must always remain grounded in our responsibilities to the land and waters.

National Portfolio #2: Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements

The Yukon Region continues to lead nationally in advancing innovative approaches to self-government, with nearly half of the 26 Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements in Canada rooted in our territory. YFN have long demonstrated leadership in advancing self-determined governance, offering powerful examples of how these agreements can evolve to meet the needs and priorities of their communities.

A key priority is the long-awaited establishment of an Office of the Modern Treaty Commissioner for Canada. In 2023, Bill C-77 was introduced to create this office — a step strongly supported by YFN, Modern Treaty Nations, and the Land Claims Agreements Coalition (LCAC). Through their leadership and work with the bilateral mechanism with the Prime Minister and Federal Cabinet, the LCAC helped elevate this priority

nationally. Unfortunately, the bill died on the order paper. Its reintroduction remains critical to ensuring full and consistent implementation of Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements across federal departments.

In February, I moderated the *Modern Treaty Perspectives* panel at the AFN National Forum on the United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA), where leaders highlighted that Modern Treaties are living frameworks for self-determination. The dialogue reinforced the need for stronger federal accountability and partnerships — including





Regional Chiefs' Reports



through the Commissioner's Office and a whole-of-government approach to UNDA implementation.

The AFN Yukon Region remains steadfast in advocating for adequate and sustainable funding to implement all Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements. YFN continue to lead in this space, building momentum for collaboration and innovation and advancing a vision that upholds the spirit and intent of Modern Treaties for current and future generations.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

In line with the Yukon Region's decision to amalgamate its regional organizations — a decision driven by the need for more cohesive approaches and to maximize limited resources — the AFN Yukon Regional Office is preparing to close in Fall 2025.

Moving forward, YFN will be represented at the AFN by the CYFN Grand Chief, who will carry specific duties and attend AFN meetings and events at the direction of Yukon Chiefs, under the new unified regional leadership model.

Throughout this transition, YFN Chiefs have consistently called for long-term, stable funding to ensure meaningful regional representation at national tables. In 2023, this call was formalized through Resolution 2023/06, mandating the AFN Yukon Regional Office to work with federal officials to secure core funding. Despite sustained advocacy, this funding was not secured.

This closure reflects a broader issue — the ongoing lack of adequate support for regionally based political representation, which risks undermining YFN's national advocacy efforts.

Conclusion

Serving two terms as Regional Chief has been an incredible honour. Gunalchéesh, Mä`hsi' cho, Sógá sénlá', Shä`w nithän, Niyę saw nīdhín, Tsin'jī choh to the Matriarchs, Chiefs, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Youth, and community leaders. I am deeply grateful for your leadership, guidance, and continued strength.

*In strength and unity, we move forward together.
With gratitude, we continue our shared journey.
We are stronger, together.
Dak'ànutà jè' — take good care.*





Regional Chiefs' Reports



Regional Chief George Mackenzie, Northwest Territories

I remain steadfast in my commitment to listening to the concerns of our Dene Chiefs. Together, we will seek solutions while honoring our Treaties, the wisdom of our Elders, and celebrating our culture and history. I am dedicated to upholding and protecting our rights.

Introduction

I am committed to fostering active engagement with Dene Chiefs on critical concerns that deeply impact our communities. By collaborating on issues such as child welfare, Indigenous policing initiatives, federal legislation, and emergency management, we can clearly identify and advocate for the priorities and direction provided to us by our Dene leadership. Together, we will ensure the best outcomes for our people, honouring our shared vision for a resilient future. Our collective efforts will strengthen our voices and uphold the rights and well-being of our communities across Denendeh and Turtle Island.

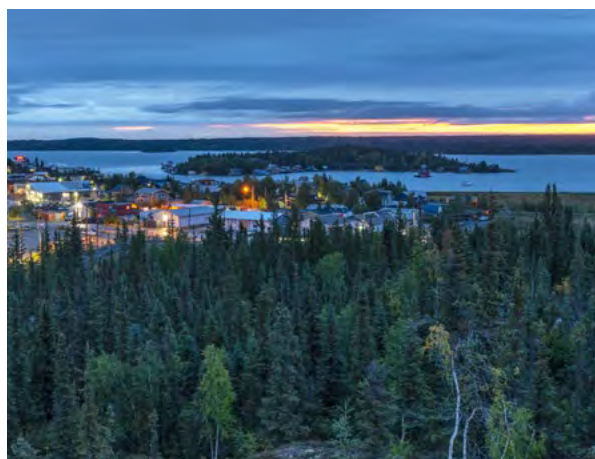
Regional Key Issues and Activities

Dene Nation Public Safety Forum

The Dene Nation Public Safety Forum, held in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, marked a pivotal moment for community safety and well-being. This significant gathering brought together Dene leaders, community representatives, and stakeholders to address pressing safety concerns and develop strategic solutions. A highlight of the forum was the establishment of the Dene Nation Task Force, focused on drug, alcohol, and crime prevention. This initiative, endorsed through a resolution, aims to secure funding and implement frameworks for immediate action. The task force will include diverse representation, including community Elders, youth delegates, and law enforcement liaisons, to ensure a comprehensive approach to safety.

The forum passed 15 critical resolutions, including exploring a Dene-led Indigenous policing program and examining Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) contracts to better reflect community needs. Emphasis was placed on integrating traditional knowledge with modern security methods, fostering community-driven solutions, and enhancing cultural programs. The event highlighted the importance of collaboration, with discussions on improving RCMP strategies, airport security, and community engagement.

*We have to learn to work
with everybody, and we
will work together*





Regional Chiefs' Reports



First Nations Child and Family Services

The Dene Nation is actively engaged in advancing long-term reforms for First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle, focusing on eliminating systemic discrimination and promoting First Nations self-determination. The Dene Nation continues to observe the work of the AFN and the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC), which provides strategic oversight and direction for these reforms and involves regular consultations with regional leadership and experts.

Emergency Measures Seminar

The Dene Nation recently hosted a successful Emergency Measures Seminar for Senior Administrative Officers (SAOs) and Band Managers in Yellowknife. This event aimed to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Discussions focused on developing community-specific emergency plans, advocating for direct federal funding, and improving collaboration between First Nations and government entities.

Education Committee Formation

To strengthen educational opportunities, the Dene Nation announced the formation of a new Education Committee. This initiative seeks to enhance educational resources across communities, with appointed members from the Sahtu, Aikaitcho, Gwich'in, Dehcho, and Tłıch'ı regions.

Ottawa Treaty March

On May 26, 2025, leaders from various treaties gathered in Ottawa for a demonstration reminding the Canadian government and King Charles III of their Treaty obligations. This march underscored the continued struggle of First Nations to have their Treaty rights recognized and respected.

We're all one people from the Creator in heaven. So don't forget that we love everybody the same, treat them the same. And that's the message we're sending to the non-Aboriginal world: support us in what we're trying to do.

Emergency Management

As the AFN Portfolio Holder for Emergency Management, I am committed to working closely with the AFN to elevate the priorities set forth by the First Nations-in-Assembly. Our focus is on strengthening engagement with First Nations and securing vital resources to enhance preparedness and response efforts. We advocate for the meaningful inclusion of First Nations leaders in decision-making processes and policy development, and for greater support in rebuilding and redevelopment following disasters. Together, we are committed to creating a resilient





Regional Chiefs' Reports



We must honour the leadership of our Chiefs and uphold the rights of First Nations, for unity and respect are the foundations of our strength.

future, ensuring that the voices and needs of First Nations are at the forefront of all emergency management efforts.

We continue to seek partnerships with the federal government to strengthen respectful nation-to-nation relationships that prioritize the safety and well-being of First Nations affected by emergencies. I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Regional Representatives on the AFN Emergency Management Committee for their tireless dedication. I look forward to continued collaboration and progress in the year ahead.

Truth and Reconciliation

The AFN plays a key role in advancing Truth and Reconciliation and addressing the historical injustices faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. For the 2024–25 fiscal year, the AFN has outlined priorities to address the legacy of residential schools, including St. Anne's Residential School, Indian Hospitals, and Indian Boarding Schools.

A primary focus of the AFN is supporting Survivors through advocacy and policy development. The AFN continues to push for the full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, demanding justice, compensation, and healing for

Survivors. It emphasizes the need for federal resources to support the mental health and well-being of survivors and their families.

With respect to the St. Anne's Residential School, on March 20, 2025, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice issued a decision that did not support the efforts of St. Anne's Survivors to seek greater accountability through the courts. The AFN participated in the hearing in support of the Survivors, recognizing the ongoing concerns related to access to documents, transparency, and accountability within the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Continued political efforts will help advance truth, recognition, and justice for Survivors.

Regarding Indian Hospitals and Boarding Schools, the AFN engages in discussions with the federal government to address both historical and ongoing impacts. This includes advocating for comprehensive health care reforms that meet the specific needs of First Nations. The AFN also works to ensure that educational reforms provide culturally appropriate and historically accurate content about First Nations peoples.

As the AFN Truth and Reconciliation Portfolio Holder, I am guided by the words of our Elders to promote healing and reconciliation through community-based traditional healing practices and cultural revitalization programs that empower our communities to reclaim their identities and heritage.



Regional Chiefs' Reports



The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

As Dene National Chief and AFN Regional Chief, I am deeply committed to advocating for the interests and priorities of the Northwest Territories Region, while collaborating with my colleagues across other regions on issues of shared concern. Together, we must address vital topics such as child welfare, Indigenous policing, public safety, and the protection of our Treaty rights. Our lands and waters are sacred, and we must remain steadfast in their preservation for future generations.



By listening to the wisdom of our Elders, we can draw upon their teachings to strengthen our communities and ensure their resilience. Our shared goal is to create a future that not only honours our vibrant cultures but also offers our children opportunities they can look forward to.

I am optimistic about what we can achieve when we unite our efforts and leverage our collective strength. I look forward to working together to secure tangible results that improve the lives of the people we serve. Together, we can pave a path toward a thriving future where our rights are respected, our communities are fortified, and our children can flourish in a safe and vibrant environment. Let us move forward with purpose and determination.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that we stand at a crucial juncture where our Regions and Communities face many critical issues—opportunities that we can seize and challenges that we must overcome. It is essential that we unite our efforts and collaborate effectively, for only together can we truly deliver meaningful results for the people we serve.

Now is the time for action. With strength, determination, and unwavering resolve, we will channel our collective energy into initiatives that not only address our current challenges but also pave the way for a brighter future. Let us commit ourselves to ensuring that our efforts bring real benefits and tangible improvements to every person in our communities.

Together, we can turn obstacles into opportunities and create lasting change. Thank you for your dedication and for standing shoulder to shoulder as we move forward.

*Together, we can build a future for our children
that we can all look forward to.*

Council Reports





Council Reports



Knowledge Keepers Council

Introduction

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Knowledge Keepers Council (KKC) is a vital advisory body established under the AFN Charter. The KKC advises the AFN Chiefs' Committees, the AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee.

The KKC is made up of three Knowledge Keepers from each of AFN's affiliated regions across Canada, representing male, female, and 2SLGBTQIA communities. The KKC's function is to offer assistance, advice, and support to the National Chief, the

AFN Executive Committee, and First Nations-in-Assembly. Each member of the KKC oversees at least one AFN sector and portfolio.

KKC Representation

The KKC elects two co-chairs annually. As of January 2024, the co-chairs are Dr. Gwendolyn Point (British Columbia) and Chuck Hume (Yukon Region).

The KKC is currently comprised of the following members:

- Yukon – *Chuck Hume (Co-Chair), and Lorraine Netro*
- British Columbia – *Dr. Gwendolyn Point (Co-Chair), Robert Joseph, and Sempulyan Gonzales*
- Northwest Territories – *Grace Blake and John Bekale*
- Alberta – *Ivy Raine and Lawrence Courtoreille*
- Saskatchewan – *Joe Qewezance*
- Manitoba – *Mike Muswagon*
- Ontario – *Teri Fiddler, Ma-Nee Chacaby and Barney Batise*
- Quebec and Labrador – *Bill Sunday*
- New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island – *Eldon Bernard*
- Prince Edward Island – *Judy Clark*
- Nova Scotia and Newfoundland – *Dr. Calvin White*

Key Issues and Activities

The KKC has re-engaged with portfolio discussions, ensuring that each AFN portfolio is supported by a Knowledge Keeper. The AFN continues to update the KKC on their portfolios at the Annual General Assembly and Special Chiefs Assemblies. The Council continues to meet regularly to remain informed of developments impacting First Nations across Canada.



Council Reports



The Council actively advocates for First Nations languages, traditions, and ceremonies, ensuring that they thrive as they are the foundation for creating and maintaining stronger Nations. The Council is essential to the AFN's day-to-day activities to keep First Nations' traditions, values, languages, and history at the fore. They work to ensure the success and well-being of the youth, just as our ancestors did for us. Members also engage with Elders in their respective regions, offering support and sharing information.

Accomplishments of 2024-2025

Terms of Reference

The KKC updated their Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR enables the Council to support activities of the AFN Secretariat, AFN Executive Committee, Chiefs' Committees, and Councils.

AFN Charter

The KKC provides guidance to the Chiefs' Committee on Charter Renewal as they work to update the AFN Charter. These updates will allow the Council to advance their work and continue to meet to review and update protocols, traditions, ceremonies, roles, and responsibilities.

Sector Portfolios

Each Council member has been assigned a portfolio aligned with their expertise, enabling meaningful participation in sector meetings and providing spiritual and cultural guidance.

Information Sharing

In collaboration with the First Nations Veterans Council, the KKC publishes the "*Council Flyer*," a bi-annual newsletter that highlights Council activities and progress to First Nations.

Gathering of the Council:

The KKC held a two-day gathering on October 23-24, 2024, where they shared and exchanged stories about cultural teachings, languages, and stories of childhood experiences. Discussions included:

- The importance of maintaining First Nation Languages, dance, and song.
- The importance of ceremonies and on the land teachings in the transfer of these important teachings.
- The role of a Knowledge Keeper and Elder within the AFN needs to be uplifted.
- The importance of revitalization of methods of healing approaches and reconciliation.





Council Reports



The KKC discussed updating their current TOR and passed a motion to finalize it in December 2024. They recommended amendments to ensure the TOR accurately reflects their role within the AFN.

As part of the discussion on updating the TOR, each KKC member selected an AFN portfolio aligned with their expertise. These portfolios, aligned with AFN Sectors, allow the KKC to participate in discussions, offer prayers, and share their insights and expertise.

AFN staff provided an update on the recent amendments to the AFN Charter. The KKC provided feedback on how their council can play a critical role within the AFN.

The gathering concluded with a retreat to the Stoney Nakoda Nation, providing an opportunity for the KKC to explore the community, engage in meaningful dialogue, and reflect on the discussions from the previous days. The gathering allowed the KKC to bond and deepen their understanding of other perspectives and learn from one another.

The Path Ahead

The KKC will continue to provide support and guidance to AFN Chiefs' Committees, the AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee, ensuring that all activities move forward in a good way. The Council plans to reconvene at the AFN Annual General Assembly in Winnipeg, Manitoba (July 2025), and the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario (December 2025).





Council Reports



Women's Council

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Women's Council works to unify and create healthy, happy, and harmonious communities through cultural identity and cultural teachings based on: respect, love, courage, wisdom, honesty, humility, and truth. The AFN Women's Council also establishes a gender-balanced perspective within First Nations communities, and within all entities dealing with First Nations, that honours the rights and aspirations of First Nations women.

The objective of the Women's Council is to ensure that the concerns and perspectives of First Nations women inform the work of the AFN. Specifically, Council members fulfill their portfolio responsibilities and participate in a wide range of panels, presentations, and forums that are relevant to First Nations women and the issues that affect them. For example, at the 2024 Annual General Assembly in Montreal, Quebec, the Women's Council supported the Resolution 18/2024, *Call for Acceleration of MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan and Calls for Justice Implementation*.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

On July 23, 2024, the Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women ("I-FPT on Status of Women") met with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives. The AFN delegation included the MMIWG2S+ Portfolio Holder, Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe, and AFN Women's Council Chairperson, Connie Big Eagle. Discussion focused on initiatives to protect and advance the rights of Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ communities, advancing political participation and leadership of Indigenous women, and overrepresentation of Indigenous women in the criminal justice system.

In September 2024, Mexico hosted the Sixth Convening of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls (TWG). The TWG seek to advance coordinated action to address the disproportionate levels of violence faced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people throughout the region.

Regional Chief Andrea Paul attended the Sixth convening of the TWG as the AFN delegate. The overarching priority theme was *Gender-based violence through the lens of self-determination*. While not officially on the agenda, human trafficking was prominently discussed, especially as it impacts Indigenous women.

Regional Chief Andrea Paul participated throughout highlighting how jurisdictional disputes between Canada and the United States undermine justice for families of MMIWG2S+. Regional Chief Paul also stressed the importance of further collaboration outside the official convenings of the TWG.

The Women's Council supported the development of a submission to Public Safety Canada providing feedback on the federal Human Trafficking Prevention Strategy





Council Reports



Renewal process. This submission highlighted AFN Women's Council perspective, AFN engagement around MMIWG2S+, and recommendations consistent with the Calls for Justice Progress Report released in 2025.

On November 14, 2024, the AFN Women's Council met with Statistics Canada to discuss the Missing Persons Data Standards Project. Following this meeting, the AFN Women's Council provided a written submission, stressing the importance of developing on- and off- reserve data that respects existing First Nations protocols for information sharing. Further, this written submission highlighted the need to include families within planning, development, and implementation of data relating to their missing loved ones.

On January 29 and 30, 2025, the MMIWG2S+ Portfolio Holder, Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe, and AFN Women's Council Chairperson, Chief Connie Big Eagle, attended Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) third MMIWG2S+ Roundtable in Ottawa, Ontario, where they had contributed to discussion items related to data on MMIWG2S+, efforts to combat human trafficking, the Red Dress Alert, and the leadership discussion. For developing and implementing the Red Dress Alert, Chief Big Eagle flagged the importance of monitoring implementation as there is no one-size-fits-all approach that works for each region, each First Nation community, or each First Nation family.



On March 20, 2025, the AFN hosted the National Virtual Forum on Advancing the MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice. The forum aimed to conduct national engagement on the theme, "Prevention of Human Trafficking and Sexual Trafficking," to inform the AFN's advocacy, raise awareness, advance mandates, and develop indicators for the AFN's 2025 Calls for Justice Progress Report. The AFN Women's Council participated in identifying agenda topics and expert panelists for the Forum itself. AFN Women's Council Nova Scotia Representative, Deanne Sack, provided opening remarks for Panel 1 on Contributing Causes and Prevention during the Forum.

The AFN Women's Council Chairperson, Chief Connie Big Eagle, and MMIWG2S+ Portfolio Holder, Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe, joined National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak at the United Nations 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, U.S., from March 10-14, 2025. During this week, Chief Big Eagle and Regional Chief Wendell LaBobe attended Canada's Signature Side Event on Driving Actionable Change and Strengthening Global Solidarity Among Indigenous Women. This event reflected on the progress and challenges since the signing of the Beijing Indigenous Women's Declaration in 1995.

As mandated by AFN Resolution 05/2022, *Support for the Assembly of First Nations Women's Council Mandate and Funding*, the AFN Women's Council has taken lead on guiding work related to the National Caucus of Women Leaders (NCWL). The main objective of the NCWL is to increase the number of First Nations elected women leaders across Canada. The Women's Council actively participates on and supports the NCWL. Women's Council members and NCWL co-chairs, Chief Joanne Miles, and Grand Chief Savanna McGregor participated in the December 4, 2024, National Caucus of Women Leaders *Women's Leadership Luncheon* and March 8, 2025, National Caucus of Women Leaders Virtual Meeting to support aspiring women leaders. Those in attendance at both meetings included First Nations women leaders, including Chiefs, Councilors, Tribal Chiefs, and Grand Chiefs across Canada.



Council Reports



The AFN co-hosted the National Justice Forum on *Revitalization of First Nations Laws and Legal Orders*, from April 2-3, 2025, in Vancouver, British Columbia. AFN Women's Council Northwest Territories Representative, Brenda Gauthier, participated as a Witness, which included actively participating and sharing their perspective to participants.

Finally, the AFN Women's Council successfully advocated for Prime Minister Mark Carney to prioritize the needs of women, girls, and gender diverse people and to appoint a full Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth (WAGE).

Next Steps - Moving Forward

It has been six years since the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) released their final report and 231 Calls for Justice. As captured in the AFN's 2024 Progress on *Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice: A Calls for Justice Report Card*, **only 2 Calls for Justice were found to be fully completed**. The AFN Women's Council will continue to advocate that the voices of survivors and families be heard and continue to be engaged during the process of implementing the CFJ National Action Plan. The AFN Women's Council will also contribute to the development of an AFN GBA+ framework.

Looking ahead to 2026, the AFN Women's Council anticipates much of its work will be devoted to carrying out AFN mandates focused on implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report and its Calls for Justice and development of a reporting framework to evaluate the implementation of the Calls for Justice.





Council Reports



National Youth Council

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Youth Council (NYC) is a vital organ of the AFN, as established in the AFN Charter. The NYC is an advisory body to the AFN Chiefs' Committees, the AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee. The Council represents First Nations youth on issues that impact them and strives to influence the direction of the AFN by working with all levels of leadership to create opportunities for personal development and empowerment for future generations.

NYC Membership and Representation

The Council elects two Co-Chairs and two executives annually at the Annual General Assembly (AGA). The 2024-25 Council Co-Chairs are Véronik Picard (Huron-Wendat Nation of Wendake, Quebec Region) and Isaiah Bernard (Potlotek First Nation, Nova Scotia Region).

The NYC is comprised of the following members:

- Yukon: *Ethan Lavallee and Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey*
- Northwest Territories: *Sub Chief George Wrigley*
- British Columbia: *Crystal Lewis and Kyle Alec*
- Alberta: *Vacant*
- Saskatchewan: *Caige Starr and Semiah Cote*
- Manitoba: *Carson Robinson and Tréchelle Bunn*
- Ontario: *Carter Carpenter and Hanna Sewell*
- Quebec: *Véronik Picard, Nico-Liam Awashish, Marie-Philippe Menard, and Kananish McKenzie*
- New Brunswick: *Darren Saulis Littlebear and Rosalie Labillois*
- Nova Scotia: *Isaiah Bernard and Shyanna Denny*
- Prince Edward Island: *Kiara Labobe*
- Newfoundland: *Braylen LaSaga and Phillip Muise*

The NYC thanks and upholds all outgoing members whose terms will have completed by July 2025.





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Key Activities and Accomplishments 2024-2025:

The NYC attended the AGA and Special Chiefs Assemblies (SCA), including the SCA on Child Welfare in October 2024.

One Young World Summit

In September 2024, seven members of the NYC attended the One Young World Summit alongside Regional Chief Bernard in Montreal, Quebec. The NYC participated in the One Young World's inaugural Indigenous Youth Day, which brought Indigenous youth from over 60 Indigenous communities in 30 countries to discuss topics such as environmental stewardship and climate change, culture and language, intergenerational trauma, and land, water, and ocean rights.

The NYC also participated in the broader Summit, spending four days learning, networking, and attending plenary sessions and workshops on youth leadership, politics, business, and community engagement.

AFN National Climate Gathering

In October 2024, NYC members attended the AFN's 3rd Annual National Climate Gathering, which brought together environmental experts, First Nations leaders, academics, and non-government organizations to share knowledge and discuss solutions to Climate Change and its impacts on First Nations.

NYC members co-planned and attended the pre-conference Youth Day, where First Nations youth shared their experiences, perspectives, and proposed community solutions to climate change, environmental racism, and how leadership can better involve youth in discussions and decision-making. The NYC members presented the Youth Gathering findings and perspectives to the National Climate Gathering's delegates in a panel.

AFN Housing and Infrastructure Gathering

In February 2025, the NYC portfolio holders for Housing and Infrastructure attended the National Housing and Infrastructure Conference, *Mind the Gap: Advancing First Nations Housing, Infrastructure, and Drinking Water*. The forum allowed participants to learn about and discuss housing developments in urban, on-reserve, on-community, and northern First Nations.

AFN National Forum on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA)

NYC Prince Edward Island representative attended the AFN United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) Forum, held in February 2025. This forum allowed First Nations leaders, organizations, technicians, and government representatives to holistically discuss the UNDA and how it impacts First Nations rights. The session offered delegates an overview of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples





Council Reports



(UN Declaration) and its history, how First Nations in Canada led the work for Canada to sign on and agree to principles surrounding UN Declaration, and next steps now that the UNDA has been implemented.

Education Forum

The NYC portfolio holder for Education attended the AFN Education Forum, *Reigniting the Flames of our Ancestors*, held on February 19 and 20, 2025. The forum offered space to learn and share challenges, best practices, and innovative initiatives in the sphere of First Nations Education. The forum held sessions on First Nations K-12 education, post-secondary education, adult education, and language learning in the

classroom, with the goal to empower and engage educators, education leaders and First Nations leadership in re-establishing control over education.

AFN Natural Resources Forum

In March 2025, NYC members participated at the AFN Natural Resources Forum to learn and share perspectives regarding industry updates in natural resources, and to advance First Nations priorities regarding resources, energy and forestry industries. The forum included sessions on Indigenous youth and their involvement in leading the transition toward clean energy, visions on forestry management, traditional perspectives on natural resources, and empowering First Nations to make informed decisions regarding resource industries.

Updating Internal Governing and Onboarding Processes

The NYC updated their governing documents and internal onboarding processes. Updates to the NYC Terms of Reference (ToR) include refining their Mission and Vision statements to better reflect current realities facing First Nations youth. The ToR now clarify the code of ethics, conflict resolution and conflict of interest sections, the list of portfolios and updated details about the coordinator's role.

The NYC updated the "Engaging the NYC: Staff Guide" and created the new "NYC Operations Guide," codifying improvements to how the NYC engages in policy and legislative work with the AFN and partners. The NYC further updated their onboarding process to ensure consistency.

The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

In 2025-26, the NYC will:

- Update and advance the NYC Communications Strategy to promote First Nations youth priority areas and increase overall youth engagement.
- Advance the NYC's plan to host a National Youth Gathering to bring together First Nations youth to discuss pertinent policy and legislative areas impacting youth.
- Continue to collaborate with the AFN Executive Committee, Secretariat and other councils to amplify youth voices.

The NYC will meet at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) in December 2025. For more information about the NYC, please visit the AFN website: <https://afn.ca/about-us/councils/youth-council>.



First Nations Veterans Council

Introduction

In October 2021, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), on behalf of the First Nations Veterans Council (FNVC), submitted a funding proposal to the Veteran and Family Well-being Fund (VFWF) aimed at fostering a stronger relationship with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). The proposal was approved, and funding was granted for a three-year period. The FNVC then began efforts to enhance collaboration between VAC and First Nations veterans across Canada.

The VFWF provides grants and contributions to a wide range of organizations to conduct research and implement initiatives supporting the well-being of veterans and their families.

First Nations veterans have always held a place of honour within the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB), which later became the AFN. These veterans have a long-standing tradition of volunteering to serve both their country and their communities.

Key Issues and Activities:

Veteran and the Family Well-Being Fund

In October 2021, the FNVC requested that the AFN submit a funding proposal to the Veteran and Family Well-being Funding (VFWF) to strengthen relationships with VAC and First Nations veterans.

As a result, a Letter of Understanding (LOU) was signed in April 2023 by the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lawrence MacAulay, and the Chair of the AFN Veterans Council, Percy Joe. This LOU established a joint commitment between the AFN and VAC to work collaboratively in addressing the specific needs of First Nations veterans and improving their well-being. Key points of the LOU include:

1. Assess and Expand Outreach Activities for First Nations Veterans and Their Families
2. Establish Clear Points of Contact for First Nations Veterans Matters at VAC
3. Increase Indigenous Representation in Commemoration-Related Activities.
4. Support the Establishment of a Historical Record of First Nations Veterans and Soldiers who have Served in Times of War, Military Conflicts, and Peace, including those Undocumented by Canada





Council Reports



Accomplishments 2024-2025

Since the signing of the LOU, the FNVC and VAC have held multiple meetings to discuss next steps, improvements to VAC's services, and the FNVC's role in implementing the four key focus areas. VAC and FNVC have continued to hold working group sessions to facilitate discussions and develop strategies for addressing the needs of First Nations veterans. The LOU marks the second phase in ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration between VAC and First Nations veterans.

While progress has been made, continued efforts are needed to acknowledge First Nations veterans' contributions, educate communities about their history, maintain a database of veterans, and engage VAC in reconciliation and healing. The FNVC has provided quarterly reports to VAC to monitor progress in implementing the LOU's four pillars.

2023-2024

Since the signing of the LOU, VAC has established an Indigenous Veterans Engagement Team, providing the FNVC with a platform to raise concerns about barriers to accessing VAC programs and services. With the guidance from FNVC, VAC improved outreach to First Nation and increased awareness of available VAC programs and services.

The FNVC held working group sessions with VAC representatives to establish and clarify the key roles within each region. Additionally, the FNVC created a joint working group comprising three FNVC members and VAC representatives to discuss the next steps in implementing the four pillars of the LOU.

2024-2025

The second phase of the LOU was signed on February 7, 2025, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The LOU renews the commitment to building a strong relationship with VAC and the FNVC. The renewed LOU aims to ensure the development of tangible outcomes and service delivery to effectively address the needs of First Nations veterans, their families, and communities.

Following up the Accomplishments of the 2023 LOU

The signing of the LOU with former Minister Lawrence MacAulay of Veteran Affairs Canada and FNVC Chairperson Percy Joe was a long-awaited milestone. This LOU has helped the FNVC to build and establish a relationship with VAC and First Nations Veterans, soldiers, and families.

The LOU outlined four joint priority areas of focus, with related activities and accomplishments detailed below:





Council Reports



- **Outreach** –With guidance and partnership from the FNVC, VAC has attended and hosted booths at powwows and shared a booth with the FNVC at AFN Annual General Assemblies and Special Chiefs Assemblies. Over the past two years, the Veterans table at the AFN Assemblies' Circles of Trade has increased VAC's visibility and attracted a growing number of veterans seeking information about benefits and services.
- **Commemoration** – VAC continues to ensure that planning for all ceremonies overseas includes elements of First Nations, including culturally relevant elements, stories, and features in upcoming programs. In June 2024, an FNVC delegate joined the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in France. In November 2024, another delegate participated in the 60th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping in Cyprus.
- **Historical Records** –Since the LOU signing, over 15,000 Indigenous veterans have been identified using sources such as Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian War Museum, the Veteran Wall of Honour, the Last Post Fund, published works, and Ancestry databases.

The Path Ahead

Though progress has been made with the signing of the LOU in April 2023 and the subsequent Phase Two LOU on February 7, 2025, building a working relationship with VAC has been efficient, but much work remains. First Nations veterans deserve the recognition they have earned and fair, equitable access to VAC programs and services.

The Veterans Well-being Act (the Act) states, "... recognize and fulfill the obligation of the people and the Government of Canada to show just and due appreciation to members and veterans for their services to Canada. This obligation includes providing services, assistance, and compensation to members and veterans who have been injured or have died as a result of military service and extends to their spouses or common-law partners or survivors, or orphans..."

Guided by the Act, the FNVC continues to advocate for First Nations veterans, soldiers, and their families. Priorities include addressing gaps in outreach regarding available benefits and resolving the longstanding issue of proper grave markers for First Nations soldiers buried without headstones.

The FNVC is currently drafting Phase Two of the LOU, which aims to deliver tangible outcomes and service delivery improvements to better meet the needs of First Nations veterans, their families, and communities.





Council Reports



2SLGBTQQIA+ Council

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) Council was established by AFN Resolution 15/2021, *AFN Charter Amendment – Establishment of a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council*. The realities and lived experiences of 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons are unique and require a distinct space, place, and voice within the decision-making structures and processes at the AFN. The objective of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council is to offer recommendations and provide guidance to the AFN to ensure fair representation and lend their voices and expertise to solving issues such as domestic violence, suicide,

HIV/AIDS, and missing and murdered Indigenous Peoples in North America. They also seek to create safe spaces, and to apply a 2S+ lens in representation and advice to the AFN.

The Council includes membership from each of AFN's affiliated regions across Canada. As of May 2025, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council is chaired by Duane Aucoin, representative for Yukon.

The Council includes:

- British Columbia – *Orene Askew*
- Yukon – *Duane Aucoin (Chair)*
- Saskatchewan – *Keyhew Gopher*
- Manitoba – *Marcel Balfour*
- Quebec and Labrador – *Kahsennenhawe Skydeer*
- New Brunswick – *Alan Polchies*
- Prince Edward Island – *Schurman Peters*
- Nova Scotia – *John R. Sylliboy and Muin Ji'j Bernard (alternate)*
- Newfoundland – *Berty Leamon (Co-Chair)*

Key Activities and Accomplishments

In Fall 2024, the AFN and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council publicly denounced Alberta's proposed pronoun policies in schools. These policies discriminate and endanger 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth. If passed, Alberta students under 16 are required to obtain parental consent for preferred names and pronouns. These policies are deemed problematic by the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council as they prioritize parental rights over the safety of 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, potentially leading to involuntary outing or misgendering, and exacerbating the already high suicide rates among First Nations, particularly within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

The Council identifies four potential priorities that guide their objectives and activities for the next several years:



Council Reports



1. **Truth Telling:** To address the role colonization has played in the marginalization and displacement of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community and ensure that 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are not treated as an afterthought in areas like health, research, and policy development.
2. **Moving the 2SLGBTQQIOA+ Council Forward:** To ensure the Council has the tools and resources required to affect change and implement its strategic plan for future generations.
3. **Collaboration and Relationship Building:** To work in collaboration with other AFN Councils, governments, regional organizations, and nations to respond to the needs of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.
4. **Education and Knowledge Translation:** To combat the growing intolerance movement in Canada by advocating for education that normalizes and celebrates 2SLGBTQQIA+ community and culture.



The finalized Strategic Plan will serve as a living document that is reviewed and updated on a regular basis to respond to the unique and dynamic needs of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

At the October 2024 Special Chiefs Assembly in Calgary, Alberta, the Pride flag was posted to the stage for the first time at an AFN assembly. Following this, at the December 2024 AGA, Chairperson Tyler George presented the pride flag to the co-chairs on behalf of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council.

During the December 2024 Annual Chiefs Assembly 2SLGBTQQIA+ meeting, the Council met with the National Chief and the Ministers of WAGE and CIRNA to discuss ways that the Council can advance 2SLGBTQQIA+ equality and inclusion on areas of policy development and in alignment with the Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan.

In April 2025, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council held an election for the positions of Chairperson and Co-Chair. Duane Aucoin, Yukon representative was elected as Chairperson, to complete the term of the former Chairperson until October 2026. Berty Leamon was elected to the position of Co-Chair, for a 2-year term until April 2027.

Next Steps - Moving Forward

Looking ahead, the Council will intensify efforts to support initiatives concerning Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and Girls (MMIWG) and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. Recognizing the importance of inclusion in the National Inquiry's work on MMIWG, the Council will also work toward contributing their perspectives to implementation efforts and ensure government accountability in addressing the root causes of violence against their community. Advocacy will prioritize Calls for Justice with a specific focus on the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

The Council will continue to advocate for investments in housing, health, mental health, and cultural revitalization programs tailored for 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in order to address gaps exacerbated by intersectional discrimination.



CEO Report





CEO Report



Chief Executive Officer Report

Aaaniin, Pjil'asi, OKI, Kwe kwe, Boozhoo, Tan'si, Gilakas'la, She:kon

Chiefs, Elders and other delegates, welcome to the 2025 Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA). It has been nearly a year since I stepped into this role, and I continue to consider it an honour and a privilege to serve as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AFN. This is a crucial responsibility, working with our staff to ensure the AFN fulfills its duty to advance the priorities of First Nations leadership and support the needs of our communities across Turtle Island.

Progress over the Last Year

The last twelve months have been busy and productive. In late 2024, we successfully delivered two assemblies, providing critical platforms for dialogue, policy advancement, and collective decision-making. Throughout the year, we held numerous forums on a variety of topics, bringing First Nations leaders and technicians together for important dialogue to advance Closing the Infrastructure Gap, the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and its National Action Plan, First Nations' jurisdiction over policing, among other key issues. Just recently, in April, we successfully hosted a Virtual Forum Series with federal party leaders ahead of the 45th General Election. These gatherings reinforced our role as a convenor, bringing together First Nations leadership and voices from coast to coast.

Strengthening Organizational Foundations

One of my main objectives as CEO is to ensure the AFN becomes a more representative, responsive, and effective organization for Chiefs and First Nations communities. To this end, we have launched an organizational review through an external organization that has been examining our operations and structure to identify how we can better deliver on our mandates. I look forward to the recommendations and insights this review will bring, as they will be critical to strengthening our capacity and accountability to Chiefs and First Nations at large.

Adapting to a Shifting Political Landscape

As we transition in a change in federal leadership, we continue to navigate complex dynamics, including developments with our neighbours south of the border. The AFN must be ready to meet the challenges and help ensure that First Nations priorities are not only heard but reflected in national policies and planning.

This is especially important as it relates to the restructuring of the economy. First Nations must be at the table from the outset—as full partners, not afterthoughts. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* has helped to chart the path forward, and our job is to support leadership in holding the federal government accountable to that path.



CEO Report



The Role of the AFN

Let me state what I believe to be the AFN's fundamental role:

We exist to support Chiefs and First Nations communities—not to speak for them. The AFN must provide clear, timely, and relevant information and analysis on national and regional developments to help inform First Nations leadership and citizens, helping to ensure they have the information to make decisions for their communities. First Nations leaders are the rights holders, not the AFN.

We must continue to serve as a national forum where our First Nations leaders come together to discuss issues of shared interest, collaborate on solutions, and exchange best practices. A strong, united AFN is a powerful asset for all First Nations, and that unity will be more important than ever in the months and years ahead.

Looking Ahead

The work before us is immense, but so is the opportunity. With the right structure, partnerships, and commitment to transparency, inclusion, and collaboration, the AFN can be even more effective in supporting First Nations leadership across Turtle Island.

Thank you for your continued trust and leadership. I look forward to continuing to lead the AFN Secretariat with integrity, purpose, and a deep commitment to serving First Nations leadership and advancing our collective priorities. As a First Nations person myself (member of M'Chigeeng First Nation in Ontario), I want to see the AFN succeed as much as anyone.

Miigwech,

Andrew Bisson
Chief Executive Officer



Branch & Sector Reports





Branch & Sector Reports



Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch

The Economic Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Branch aims to enhance the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over fisheries, economic development, infrastructure, housing, and homelessness while improving program and service delivery.

Housing and Infrastructure Sector

The AFN supports the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI), chaired by Newfoundland Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, along with Water Lead Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict, to advance First Nations-led priorities in housing, community infrastructure, water and homelessness through advocacy, research and policy development. Together, the AFN and CCOHI advocate for First Nations care and control of housing and infrastructure, grounded in rights and distinctions-based processes.

The AFN and CCOHI work closely with federal partners – Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC), and Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) - through the Joint Working Group on Housing, related Infrastructure and Homelessness to collaborate on policies that reflect First Nation's needs, jurisdiction, and self-determination

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

The AFN hosted the 2024 National Housing and Infrastructure Conference March 19-20, 2025, in Calgary, Alberta. This event consolidated several previous annual gatherings into one event, including the AFN's national housing forums, first responders' gatherings, and water symposiums/summits. The conference highlighted the economic benefits of closing the infrastructure gap in First Nations, as well as asset management planning and training resources, adaptation to climate change, and enhancements to the management and delivery of First Nations housing and infrastructure resources.

Another event hosted by the AFN was the National First Nations Homelessness and Mental Wellness Forum, which highlighted the urgent need for distinctions-based investments and culturally rooted services models.

The AFN also advanced co-development of the Joint Working Group's Terms of Reference and multi-year workplan to implement key housing and homelessness priorities, including those from the Auditor General's 2024 Report—*Housing in First Nations Communities*. Another accomplishment was the completion of the First Nations Control and Management of Housing research report, identifying pathways to First Nations-led housing systems.

The AFN undertook advocacy to secure multi-year funding from the federal government to support housing and homelessness research, policy development and advocacy.

The AFN facilitated a high-level meeting between CCOHI and three Assistant Deputy Ministers from Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, and Senior Vice Presidents of



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the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to press for urgent investments and reforms to housing policies and programs.

The Sector also completed an asset management planning (AMP) pilot project through the Blackfoot Confederacy to better understand the time, effort and resources required to complete a comprehensive AMP for First Nations. The findings provide an improved understanding of the time needed to establish trust and demonstrate values to leadership, members and First Nation staff; how to prioritize challenges that exist within the current federal program funding environment; how the limited scope of the government's asset reporting creates confusion; and the importance of having access to accurate data.

Finally, the AFN developed the Benefits for All Canadians (Part 1 and Part 2) reports with the Conference Board of Canada — Demonstrating how a \$349.2 billion investment would generate \$635 billion in output, \$308.9 billion in GDP growth, and support 338,300 full-time jobs annually, including 31,448 held by First Nations people. The second report also showed how closing the First Nations infrastructure gap also transforms the well-being, supports cultural strength, and secures long-term sustainability.



Water and Wastewater

AFN Resolution 43/2024, Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act reaffirmed key directives for new First Nations water legislation that would replace the 2013 *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, including prioritizing full implementation, ensuring free, prior, and informed consent, securing adequate funding, resolving water advisories, and involving First Nations in all decision-making processes.

The second reading of the Bill occurred on June 5, 2024, and the legislation was sent to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) Committee. From June 12-November 26, the Committee held 18 meetings with 94 witnesses, with a final report on December 2, 2024. The AFN attended these meetings and conducted analysis on what was heard.

On October 2024 National Chief Cindy Woodhouse appeared before the INAN Committee to advocate for amendments to Bill C-61. On December 12, 2024, National Chief Woodhouse sent an open letter to Members of Parliament to support and prioritize the advancement of the First Nations Clean Water Act.



The AFN continues to advocate for ending First Nations long-term drinking water advisories and the reintroduction of water legislation, which are priorities that were included in the Liberal Party of Canada's elections platform, and that now Prime Minister Mark Carney committed to directly during the AFN-hosted virtual town halls with federal party leaders.

The AFN will continue to follow up on the mandates given by First Nations-in-Assembly for safe and clean drinking water and the human right to water.



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The AFN also hosted the 7th *Annual Water Symposium: Bridging the Gap: First Nations Water and Wastewater Equity*, which was held April 15-18, 2024, and included the First Nations Water Operators Forum.

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward (Key Issues for 2025/26)

The AFN will co-develop a multi-year plan to identify all sources of capital needed to close the First Nations housing and infrastructure gap estimated at \$349.2 billion including \$135.1 billion for housing.

The AFN will also work to ensure First Nations' housing needs are fully integrated into federal initiatives including the new government's *Build Canada Homes* (BCH).

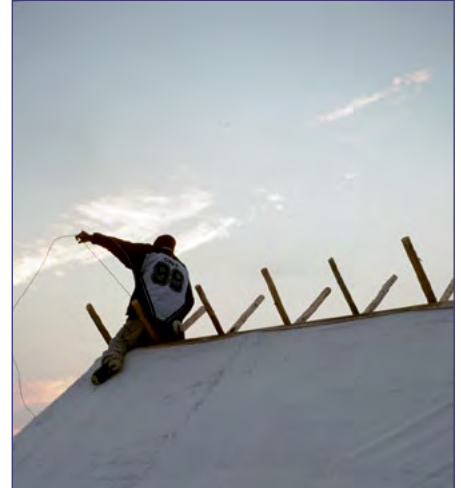
Another step in the path ahead is to advocate a fundamental shift away from incremental policy change with respect to Indigenous housing, as called for by the Auditor General of Canada (2024), toward comprehensive, distinctions-based reform.

The AFN will work to advance phased implementation of the National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan (NFNHAP).

The AFN will advocate to realign urban Indigenous housing funding, ensuring First Nations are recognized as primary service providers to their citizens regardless of residency.

Co-developing a policy framework for Indigenous Services Canada's transfer of control of federal housing program funds will be another advocacy priority, along with operationalising the Joint Working Group (JWG) multi-year work plan.

The AFN continues to advocate for the reintroduction of new water legislation similar to Bill C-61 and the inclusion of amendments as directed by First Nations as soon as the House resumes in September.



Key Resolutions

- 67-2024, *Right to Improvement of Housing, A Social Condition*
- Resolution-57-2018-*National-First-Nations-Housing-and-Related-Infrastructure-Strategy*
- 43-2024, *Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act*
- 44-2024 *Support for First Nations-Led Responses to Chronic and Unsheltered Homelessness*
- 26-2021 *Support for Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030*



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Economic Development Sector

The AFN advocates for economic policies and programs that respect First Nations' self-determination in both the market and traditional economies of First Nations, including the advancement of economic recovery, prosperity, inclusion, and sustainability. Portfolio priorities include advocacy on procurement, connectivity, natural resources, labour market, and trade.

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

Labour Market

The AFN reviewed the *Pay Equity Act* and the *Employment Equity Act* to inform the Employment Equity Act Review Task Force. Additionally, the AFN is working with Employment and Skills Development Canada (ESDC) to develop a long-

term transfer agreement funding for the Indigenous Labor 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. The AFN has been working with First Nations ISET agreement holders to develop a First Nations labour market information initiatives business case to assist in the advocacy for establishing the ILMI initiative as a permanent component of the ISET program. The AFN continues to advocate for program enhancements for First Nations employment and training by facilitating meetings between First Nations ISET agreement holders and ESDC. Priority areas focus on engagement, partnerships, labour market information, policy, and program issues and for the removal of barriers and the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction regarding labour market access.

Key Resolutions

- 32/2017, *Distinct First Nations Labour Market Strategy*
- 25/2018, *Next Steps on a Distinct First Nations Labour Market Strategy*
- 39/2019, *Inclusion of Canada Summer Jobs to First Nations Labour Market Agreements*
- 40/2019, *First Nations Labour Market Agreement (FNLMA) holders and the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI)*
- 48/2021, *Traditional Occupations and Traditional Economies*
- 64/2024, *First Nations Labor Market Information*

Trade

In line with Resolution 99/2023, *Opposition to Investor-State Dispute Settlement Mechanisms*, Resolution 37/2019, *Support for Treaty and Inherent Rights to Tax and Tariff Exemption*, and Resolution 37/2019, *Continued Advocacy on Canada's International Trade Agreements to achieve Economic Reconciliation*, the AFN continues to advocate for the





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expansion of trade-related economic opportunities and market access for First Nations goods and services internationally and inter-nation through advocacy for Indigenous general exception chapters in trade and investment agreements and ensuring appropriate supports for First Nations businesses. This includes and supports Regional Chief Joanna Bernard as the First Nations representative to the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Arrangement (IPETCA) Partnership Council. Regional Chief Joanna Bernard was appointed to the IPETCA Partnership Council by the National Chief in July 2024 and continues to advance international Indigenous collaboration with the Partnership Council.

Key Resolutions

- 99/2023, *Opposition to Investor-State Dispute Settlement Mechanisms*
- 37/2019, *Support for Treaty and Inherent Rights to Tax and Tariff Exemption*
- 37/2019, *Continued Advocacy on Canada's International Trade Agreements to Achieve Economic Reconciliation*
- 30/2018, *Realizing Benefits for First Nations in the Implementation of International Trade and Investment Agreements*

Procurement

The AFN and the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) have been collaborating with other national Indigenous economic organizations to develop a First Nations-led procurement organization, titled the First Nations Procurement Authority (FNPA), which was incorporated on May 1, 2025, and whereby the first inaugural Board Meeting took place on May 6, 2025, in Gatineau, Quebec. The AFN continues to advocate for increased First Nations procurement opportunities by supporting the development of the FNPA, which aims to grow First Nations economies through enhanced public and private procurement.

Key Resolutions

- 93/2018, *Federal Government Procurement Programs for First Nations*
- 38/2019, *Increasing First Nations Procurement Opportunities and Benefits*
- 62/2019, *Enhanced funding for First Nation socioeconomic development, through the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association and Aboriginal Financial Institutions*
- 48/2021, *Traditional Occupations and Traditional Economies*
- 49/2021, *Next Steps on First Nations and Procurement*
- 06/2022, *A New Economic Deal for First Nations via a National Prosperity Table*
- 03/2023, *Long-Term Strategy on Financial Services for First Nations*
- 72/2023, *First Nations-Led Procurement Organization and the National Benefits Sharing Agreement*



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Natural Resources

The AFN is working with Natural Resources Canada to enhance First Nations participation at all levels of decision-making, including Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers meetings, such as the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and the Energy and Mines Ministers Conference. The AFN hosted the first annual National Natural Resources Forum on March 12-13, 2025, on the unceded and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The forum provided First Nations the opportunity to network with government and industry to discuss sustainable development, increasing First Nations' access to information and programming, business and regulatory tools, and First Nations engagement and capacity building in natural resources and the energy sector.

Key Resolutions

- 38/2014, *Support for the Development of a Report on Natural Resources*
- 100/2019, *New Investments in First Nations Involvement in the Economy*
- 06/2022, *A New Economic Deal for First Nations via a National Prosperity*
- 72/2023, *First Nations-Led Procurement Organization and the National Benefits Sharing Agreement*

Connectivity

The AFN advocates for First Nations to have accessible and affordable high-speed digital connections. The transition to virtual technologies and landscapes has highlighted the need for improved digital connectivity. Although the Government of Canada has committed to connecting 100% of Canadians to high-speed internet by 2030, First Nations continue to remain largely disconnected. The AFN report, "Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030" identified that an investment of \$5.2 billion is required to connect First Nations to high-speed internet and cellular. The AFN continues to advocate for First Nations' digital connectivity, spectrum access, and First Nations-specific connectivity funding streams to support connecting to the internet.

Key Resolutions

- 32/2018, *Strengthening on-reserve connectivity*
- 19/2020, *Supporting First Nations with connecting to the Internet*
- 30/2021, *Government Income Support Programs and First Nations Digital Connectivity*
- 08/2023, *Government Support for First Nations Digital Connectivity and Spectrum Sovereignty*
- 66/2024, *Recognize The First Mile Connectivity Consortium as a Network of Professionals for the Support of First Nations Telecommunications*





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Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The AFN will continue to work to ensure First Nations are free to pursue economic, social, and cultural development consistent with their self-determined priorities. The focus of this advocacy is on supporting sustainable economic development through trade, natural resource development, procurement, connectivity, employment and training and various economic policy matters as mandated by the First Nations-in-Assembly. The Chiefs Committee on Economic Development will continue to support these activities regarding economic development and the First Nations labour market and will provide continued support for economic reconciliation efforts based on direction from the First Nations-in-Assembly.





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Fisheries Sector

The AFN supports the National Fisheries Committee (NFC), co-chaired by British Columbia Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Nova Scotia Regional Chief Andrea Paul. The NFC advances First Nations-led priorities on fisheries, including aquaculture, inland (freshwater) and coastal (marine) rights-based fisheries. Together, the AFN and the NFC advocate for First Nations assertion of governance and stewardship over the fisheries in their respective traditional territories.

The AFN and the NFC work closely with federal partners – Fisheries and Oceans Canada – through regular meetings of the NFC and through the Joint Planning Table. The AFN advances advocacy strategies that recognize and respect the sovereign rights, self-determination and jurisdiction of all First Nations and promote sustainable First Nations fisheries, for we all understand that fishing is an integral part of the culture and identity of First Nations peoples.

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

Key Issues

In 2016, the Government of Canada (GoC) launched the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP), which was a \$1.5 billion interdepartmental strategy to increase Canada's presence on the oceans, to increase safety and marine shipping as well as expand or establish emergency response and management on Canada's coasts. The OPP was renewed in 2022, and the GoC committed an additional \$2.0 billion over nine years to renew and expand the OPP.

First Nations have inherent rights to govern and manage ocean resources related to fisheries, navigation, energy, protection, monitoring, transportation, economics, and transboundary issues, including international law of the sea. While First Nations have inherent jurisdiction, their marine plans and role in marine safety were not respected and properly integrated in the rollout of the OPP in 2016.

As directed by Resolution 21/2024, *First Nations Continued Inclusion in Canada's Oceans Protection Plan and Marine Safety Emergency Planning*, the AFN continues to participate on the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) technical working group and has co-drafted a What We Heard Report, outlining key themes from an assessment on the quality of the relationships with affected First Nations under the OPP. This assessment is based on interviews conducted with affected First Nation, stakeholders and government officials. The AFN participated in outreach and engagement opportunities such as the Pacific and virtual Dialogue Sessions to present the work of the technical working group and to hear from interested First Nations directly.

Moreover, the AFN provided technical support for the Safe Inland Waters workshop hosted in Scantbury, Manitoba in January 2025, which focused on inland waters emergency response strategies and ecologically sensitive areas, such as Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries.



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Resolution 22/2024, 2024 Fisheries Act 5-Year Review to Ensure Alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) passed a motion in February 2024 to undertake a study of up to eight meetings to conduct a comprehensive review of the Fisheries Act.

Resolution 22/2024 directs the AFN to engage with the GoC and with the FOPO to propose legislative amendments. The AFN began developing legislative proposals relating to outstanding obligations to implement the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada; aquaculture and its regulations, including the Transition Away from Open Net Pen Fish Farms on the Coastal Waters of British Columbia by 2029; conservation and protection of wild fish stocks; First Nation Traditional Knowledge and free prior and informed consent; and conservation and protection of fish habitat, including marine and coastal waters. When the FOPO resumes its study, the AFN will provide both a technical brief and testimony.



Resolution 20/2024, First Nations Inclusion in the Transformation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

Inland freshwater fish harvesters have a long history with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) and have, year after year, been underpaid for their work and for their catches. The FFMC buys from fish harvesters in Alberta, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario. The prospective transformation of the FFMC from a Crown Corporation could negatively impact First Nation fish harvesters.

While the AFN is not part of the bidding group who have expressed an interest in being part of the transformation of the FFMC, we have been closely following the process and have been in regular contact with the Interprovincial Working Group and with DFO officials. The IWG is invited to participate in regular meetings of the National Fisheries Committee, to provide updates and to hear from Leadership and technicians directly. The AFN has also met with DFO officials and written to the Minister of DFO, raising issues related to transparency, timeline and bidding criteria in a coordinated effort to promote continued market access for rural, remote and isolated First Nation fish harvesters. It is essential that First Nations be part of the process of any reform or sale of the FFMC.





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Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

From May 2024 to February 2025, the National Fisheries Committee (NFC) undertook a strategic planning and identified eight strategic directions. Under each of these strategic directions, the NFC further identified specific objectives that will, over the 2025-2028 period, be actioned through the introduction of proposed resolutions to the General Assemblies. Through this process, the NFC has renewed its mandate in a manageable way commensurate with current funding levels and will continue, with support from the AFN, to advocate for the full implementation of the decisions handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada and for the full recognition of Rights-Based First Nations fisheries across the country.

The AFN will continue to advocate for broad investments into co-governance and co-management of Canada's fisheries, and for additional focus, attention and resources to conserve and protect fish stocks and their habitats. With the historic decline of wild salmon stocks on both the West and East coasts, now more than ever, Canada needs to invest in long-term strategies designed to reverse the decline of salmon populations and to conserve and protect their whole-of-life habitats. These strategies must be done in partnership with First Nations.

Finally, through the OPP technical working group, the AFN will continue to engage with affected and interested First Nations and stakeholders on its ongoing work. This will include an analysis of funding agreements and program documents to identify and refine assessment indicators. We will host regional engagement sessions and participate in established Dialogue Sessions hosted by Transport Canada.





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Environment, Lands & Water Branch

The AFN Environment, Lands & Water (ELW) Branch works to protect and preserve Mother Earth by supporting Traditional Knowledge and values, integral to all relationships within Creation, in the conservation of the environment, its lands and its waters.

Branch Key Issues and Activities:

For First Nations, the environment, *all the lands and waters*, are life. Each is inseparable, reflecting our reciprocal and lasting connection to Turtle Island and our specific lands, waters, and territories. The AFN works to support the right to self-determination of First Nations as they seek to reclaim jurisdiction and authority based on their inherent, constitutionally protected, and Treaty rights

and title. In doing so, the AFN prioritizes the continued recognition of First Nations as environmental stewards and leaders.

To achieve this, the AFN advances five interrelated strategic objectives:

1. Ensure federal legislation and regulation pertaining to the environment, lands and water uphold and advance First Nations' inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction.
2. Advocate for equitable, sufficient, and direct funding related to the environment, lands and water to enable First Nations to fully implement their inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction.
3. Improve federal policies and programs to support the exercise of First Nations' rights and create space for First Nations-led policies and programs.
4. Facilitate the creation of processes related to the environment, lands, and water that support long-term, First Nations-identified outcomes, respecting the Treaty rights, title and jurisdiction of First Nations.
5. Support First Nations in the development of strategies related to environment, lands, and water, and advocate for their full consideration in federal decision-making processes.

Environment Sector

The AFN advocates for First Nations in exercising self-determination and jurisdiction across a broad spectrum of environmental issues, emphasizing support for the leadership, resilience, and innovation of First Nations in environmental protection while working to ensure our collective well-being and decision-making are appropriately rooted in First Nations' worldviews.





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Accomplishments 2024-2025

Throughout fall and winter 2024–25, the AFN hosted a series of virtual webinars to share updates on environmental policy issues and activities and gather First Nations' feedback to inform AFN's work and activities. These insights informed technical submissions and advocacy materials.

First Nations Climate Action

In October 2024, the AFN hosted the 3rd National Climate Gathering in Calgary on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy (the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda First Nations (the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley). A follow-up webinar in February 2025 focused on the outcomes of the AFN National Climate Strategy, which includes 107 strategies and actions across seven priority areas using a "First Nations Climate Lens." Work is now focused on developing a Climate Lens Toolkit, through an upcoming summer webinar series, to be launched in 2026.

The Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA), an important bilateral technical table between the AFN and Canada, met four times in 2024-25. Its 2024 Annual Report, finalized for the National Chief and Prime Minister, will be published in 2025.

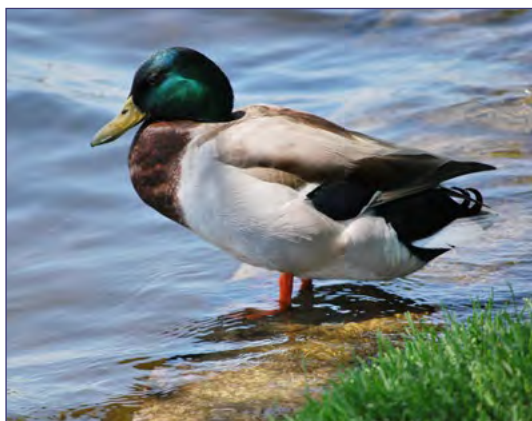
On the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCLA), over 30 First Nations 'Regional Leads' submitted recommendations to a federal Memorandum to Cabinet (MC) in Winter 2024. While the status of the MC is uncertain due to parliamentary prorogation and the recent election, the AFN continues to support the Leads through strategic advocacy and coordination to the new Prime Minister and Minister of Environment and Climate Change, as well as regular Caucus coordination.

Conservation and Biodiversity

The AFN has participated in international conservation negotiations in recent years, including the finalization of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). At the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 16th meeting (COP 16), a significant outcome for Indigenous Peoples was the creation of a Permanent Subsidiary Body for Article 8(j). This body is dedicated to elevating issues related to the knowledge, innovations, and practices of Indigenous Peoples and enhancing their participation in all CBD processes.

Domestically, implementation of the CBD is carried out through National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Canada's NBSAP acknowledges the direct inclusion and leadership of First Nations; however, additional funding and resource commitments are needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss on First Nations' lands, waters, and territories.

Through the First Nations Nature Table (FNNT), the benefits of building First Nations capacity to plan and execute conservation objectives, such as area-based conservation targets, have been highlighted. Discussions regarding federal program renewal further identified the need for increasing accessibility to funding, information on funding, and the expansion of conservation programming.





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The AFN has also initiated analysis of specific provisions in the Species at Risk Act (SARA) that may be leveraged by First Nations, including conservation agreements under sections 11 and 12.

Additionally, the AFN continues to raise awareness of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) by developing resources and communication materials to support First Nations in responding to the threat CWD poses to culturally significant species, including deer, moose, and caribou.

Environmental Health

The AFN's advocacy efforts in environmental health focus on promoting the comprehensive implementation of the Right to a Healthy Environment (RTHE), advancing Environmental Justice, and improving chemical and waste management approaches for First Nations. provided technical recommendations on RTHE implementation, informed by engagement with First Nations and compiled into a technical submission. The AFN is currently working to establish a Circle of Experts on Chemicals Management and is advancing the creation of a technical Environmental Health Table in partnership with Health Canada.



Impact Assessment of Major Projects

On behalf of the AFN, Regional Chief Adamek engaged in parliamentary advocacy related to a suite of proposed amendments to the Impact Assessment Act (IAA), which Canada compiled to respond to the Supreme Court of Canada declaring the IAA and Physical Activities Regulation (Project List) unconstitutional. In fall 2024, the AFN hosted a virtual Impact Assessment webinar series to share information with First Nations on the five-year review of the Project List, proposed changes to assessment requirements on reserves, co-administration of federal impact assessments, and First Nation-led assessments. Based on feedback from First Nations during the webinar series, the AFN prepared technical submissions on the Project List and co-administration processes.

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 36/2023, *Urgent and Transformative Climate Action through the AFN National Climate Strategy*
- Resolution 25/2024, *Advocating for an Ambitious, Fully Funded, and Implemented First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCLA)*
- Resolution 26/2024, *First Nation Participation in the Development of a Right to a Healthy Environment Implementation Framework and Environmental Justice Strategy*
- Resolution 95/2024, *First Nations Leadership in Impact Assessment*
- Resolution 97/2024, *Reaffirming Support for the Joint Committee on Climate Action*
- Resolution 102/2024, *Call for Canada to Fulfil UN Declaration Obligations in Relation to Proposed Carbon Capture and Storage Projects*



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Lands Sector

The AFN Lands Sector advocates for First Nations' self-determination over their lands, territories, and resources. The AFN works with First Nations and the Government of Canada to improve laws, policies, and programs related to land restitution and compensation for historical breaches of the Crown's obligations to First Nations.

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

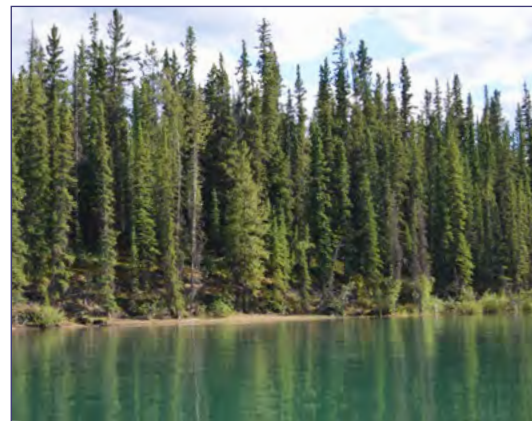
- Key Issues: Specific Claims, Additions to Reserve (ATR), New Band/Band Amalgamation (NBBA).

Specific Claims

For generations, First Nations have called for a fair, open, impartial, and fully independent process to resolve historical breaches of the Crown's obligations. Throughout 2024, the AFN worked with the Government of Canada through the Specific Claims Implementation Working Group (SCIWG) to jointly develop a proposal for an Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specific Claims (the Independent Centre). These efforts were paused due to the federal election and the imposition of the caretaker period. The AFN will resume efforts under the new federal government.

In 2024, the First Nations-in-Assembly directed the AFN to continue working towards a fully independent process, while also prioritizing reforms to the Specific Claims Policy. The First Nations-in-Assembly identified several reforms to improve access to justice, including the removal of barriers to compensation and land restitution. Throughout 2024, the AFN worked with the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources (CCoLTR) and the Government of Canada to advance these reforms.

The AFN continues to be guided by resolutions from the First Nations-in-Assembly that reiterate long-standing calls for a fully independent process free from Canada's conflict of interest. Meanwhile, the AFN is pursuing meaningful policy reforms to improve the Specific Claims process, including facilitating land restitution. This work is supported by the Council of Experts in Indigenous Laws (CEIL), and the AFN plans to host its third Indigenous Laws Gathering in late 2025.



Additions to Reserve (ATR)

The AFN is mandated by the First Nations-in-Assembly to pursue fundamental reforms to the ATR Policy and advocate for the full involvement of First Nations in the reform process. Throughout 2024, the AFN participated in technical discussions with Canada through a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Through the TAC, the AFN called on Canada to collaborate with First Nations to develop a complete redesign of the ATR Policy. In 2024, based on recommendations by the TAC, the Government of Canada announced nine interim changes to the ATR Policy. These interim changes are designed to remove several



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administrative barriers to the conversion of lands to reserve. Due to the prorogation of Parliament and the 2025 election, the TAC was required to temporarily pause its discussions. The AFN will continue its participation in the TAC with the new federal government.

In fall 2024, the AFN hosted a series of virtual roundtables with First Nations technicians and leadership to gather input on ATR reform priorities. The AFN will continue to engage directly and meaningfully with First Nations throughout the reform process.

New Band/Band Amalgamation (NBBA) Policy

The AFN is mandated to advocate for the redesign of the New Band/Band Amalgamation (NBBA) Policy to ensure a fair and timely process for recognizing First Nations as bands under the Indian Act. From September 2024 to March 2025, the AFN participated in monthly technical meetings with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to discuss policy updates. These meetings were paused due to the 2025 federal election and are expected to resume soon.

In fall 2024, the AFN developed a community-based interview process to gather input from First Nations on the NBBA Policy. The AFN facilitated five community-based interviews, which informed the development of a forthcoming report. This report outlines significant policy recommendations designed to guide reform of the NBBA Policy.

Key Resolutions

- o AFN Resolution 10/2024, *Advancing Additions to Reserve Reform*
- o AFN Resolution 11/2024, *Ensuring Access to Justice for Specific Claims through Policy Reform*
- o AFN Resolution 70/2024, *Full Involvement of First Nations in Additions to Reserve Re-Design*

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

In 2025, the AFN will continue working with First Nations and the Government of Canada to pursue reforms to the Specific Claims, Additions to Reserve (ATR), and New Band/Band Amalgamation (NBBA) policies. The AFN will advocate for the prioritization of land restitution in all relevant laws, policies, and programs, while ensuring meaningful First Nations involvement in all reform efforts.





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Water Sector

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Water Sector advocates for First Nations' water stewardship and ensures that all water-related initiatives reflect First Nations' priorities, perspectives, knowledge systems, and inherent rights. In 2024-25, the AFN advanced mandates directed by the First Nations-in-Assembly through work across three core areas: Marine Conservation and Biodiversity, Freshwater Protection, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

Marine Conservation and Biodiversity

The AFN advanced advocacy for First Nations-led Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) across inland, coastal, and marine waters through the following accomplishments:

- Guided by Resolution 96/2024, *Advancing First Nations-Led Marine Conservation and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas*, and supported by the AFN's Marine IPCA Sub-Working Group and the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment, the AFN engaged Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to implement the 2023 Marine IPCA Report recommendations. Key asks include dedicated, sustainable, long-term funding and the creation of a cross-departmental federal committee.
- The AFN initiated the creation of a Marine IPCA Toolkit, a resource to support First Nations in establishing marine IPCAs. Toolkit development is informed by preliminary engagement with First Nations and analysis of existing resources.
- At the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the AFN advocated for global recognition and support of Indigenous-led conservation as vital to protecting biodiversity and upholding First Nations' rights and responsibilities to lands and waters.

Freshwater Protection and Stewardship

The AFN worked to ensure that First Nations' rights, responsibilities, and legal orders are central to federal freshwater policy, particularly where water is impacted by industrial development, including long-term nuclear waste storage.



- The AFN published a [report](#) with recommendations to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NMWO), calling for transparency, accountability, and First Nations leadership in nuclear waste management. This work was informed by regional dialogue sessions hosted with First Nations.
- The AFN developed a discussion paper on modernizing the *Canada Water Act*, outlining recommendations to embed First Nations' rights, knowledge systems, and governance in national water management. Input was coordinated with the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE).



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- In collaboration with host Nations in Treaty 1 territory, the AFN is planning the first annual Water Walk to honour the sacred relationship between First Nations and water. The event will emphasize the importance of water protection, especially for women and gender-diverse individuals, who carry distinct water responsibilities.

Sustainable Development Goals

The AFN continues to support a First Nations-led pathway to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on self-determined priorities and the interconnection between water, well-being, and governance.

- The AFN organized a workshop to help First Nations understand and leverage Canada's SDG commitments to advance their own goals and priorities.
- The AFN participated in the United Nations Oceans Conference, focused on SDG 14: Life Below Water. Led by Regional Chief Andrea Paul, the AFN delegation advocated for increased investment in First Nations-led ocean conservation and sustainable marine resource management.
- In partnership with First Nations leadership from British Columbia and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on SDGs, the AFN co-hosted side events at the UN Oceans Conference. These events provided space for global Indigenous collaboration, storytelling, and strategy sharing on rights and responsibilities related to coastal and marine waters.



The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

Looking ahead, the AFN will embark on the following activities over the coming year:

Marine Conservation and Biodiversity

The AFN will continue working with DFO and other federal partners to implement the Marine IPCA Report recommendations. Virtual and in-person engagement sessions with First Nations are planned to co-develop the Marine IPCA Toolkit, aiming to build capacity and foster collaboration on marine stewardship.

Freshwater Protection

Building on 2024 regional dialogue sessions, the AFN will convene a National Forum on Nuclear Waste Policy to amplify First Nations' voices in the regulation, transportation, and storage of nuclear waste. Advocacy will continue for stronger accountability mechanisms and community-led oversight to prevent mining-related harm.





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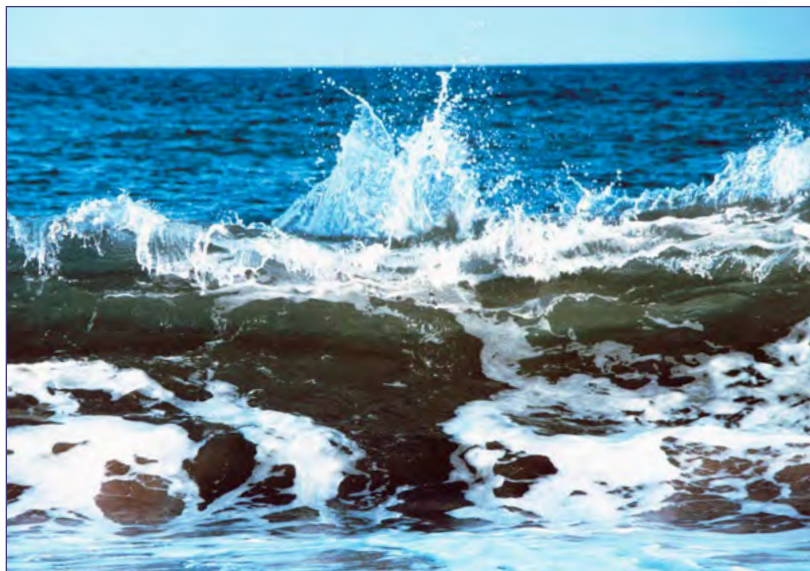
The AFN will also refine recommendations for legislative amendments to the Canada Water Act, incorporating feedback from First Nations and AFN governance committees. These will be brought forward for further discussion and endorsement.

In line with Resolution 53/2023, *First Nations-led Process for National Water Stewardship and the Canada Water Agency*, the AFN is supporting the development of a First Nations-led water stewardship task force. Discussions with the Canada Water Agency will ensure this task force reflects First Nations' leadership, laws, and priorities.

The AFN will advocate for the reintroduction of the First Nations Clean Water Act (formerly Bill C-61), emphasizing strong provisions for source water protection and implementation of previous First Nations-in-Assembly directives.

Sustainable Development Goals

The AFN is developing a discussion paper on advancing First Nations-led approaches to the SDGs. A dialogue session is being planned with First Nations leadership, technical experts, and Chiefs Committees to review the draft and gather input. This will support alignment of international frameworks with First Nations' self-determined planning, governance, and reporting practices.





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Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

Climate change and biodiversity conservation have received increased global attention and commitments in recent years. The growing recognition of the interconnectedness of these crises, along with heightened awareness of their links to environmental health, has underscored the urgent need for dynamic, innovative, and multifaceted First Nations-led solutions, especially during this time of geopolitical instability.

The AFN continues to advance work as mandated by the First Nations-in-Assembly, with guidance from the ACE, JCCA, and FNNT. Urgent action remains essential to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental health. First Nations must continue to lead national and international efforts to confront these challenges. The AFN will continue advocating, both domestically and internationally, to position First Nations as leaders in environmental stewardship and as caretakers of their traditional lands, territories, and waters.





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Rights and Justice Branch

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Rights and Justice Branch works towards the full affirmation and manifestation of First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights and jurisdiction. Rights, justice, and governance are fundamental to the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction and self-determination.

The Rights and Justice Branch consists of two sectors: the Rights and Governance sector and the Justice sector. Both sectors are actively engaged in new and ongoing mandates to address the Crown's chronic underfunding and lack of prioritization of Nation-building, the revitalization of First Nations' justice systems, and the assertion of First Nations' rightful jurisdiction. Current priorities include First Nations policing, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), the implementation of the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), asserting First Nations control over Citizenship, and Government-to-Government and fiscal relations.

Justice Sector

The AFN advances mandates focused on supporting and amplifying First Nations jurisdiction over justice-related systems, including policing, restorative justice, and prevention and harm reduction strategies. This work aims to end the overrepresentation of First Nations in the criminal justice system and advocates for social justice reforms and systemic change consistent with the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) and its Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into MMIWG and its Calls for Justice. The AFN is committed to achieving meaningful changes that demonstrate a holistic approach to the social, economic, and political well-being of First Nations.

Accomplishments 2024-2025

Justice Reform

Indigenous Justice Strategy

Building on multiple years of engagement with First Nations, the AFN continued joint work with the Government of Canada to finalize a distinction based Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) resulting in the formal release of the IJS by the Minister of Justice in March 2025.

To support IJS implementation and ensure First Nations perspectives were appropriately captured, the AFN developed an AFN First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS) that was released in 2025. The FNJS complements the IJS, bringing forward specific recommendations identified by First Nations, and creating an evergreen document that can be leveraged by First Nations in their efforts to reform and revitalize the justice system.



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Systemic Racism in Policing

2024 was a devastating year for First Nations interacting with police services. From August to December 2024, over fifteen First Nations people died during interactions with non-First Nations police forces resulting in a national call for action, including an emergency debate in parliament led by Nunavut Member of Parliament Lori Idlout.

In December 2024, First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 63/2024, *Call for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths*, calling for an independent inquiry in systemic racism in policing along with immediate reforms to police protocols and tactics.

AFN Resolutions focused on Justice Reform include:

- Resolution 07/2020, *Call for Reform to Address Institutional Racism in the Justice System*
- Resolution 55/2023, *Support for the Reform and Enforcement of First Nations Laws*
- Resolution 15/2024, *Call for Renewed Support of the Co-Development and Implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy*
- Resolution 63/2024, *Call for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths*
- Resolution 83/2024, *Ensure Full Implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy First Nations Chapter*



First Nations Policing

In 2024, the AFN completed “*Recommendations for Legislation Recognizing First Nations Policing as an Essential Service*,” culminating three years of national engagement with First Nations communities to determine the legislative framework for policing.

AFN Resolution 09/2024, *Support for Recognition of First Nations Jurisdiction over Policing*, outlines the three key legislative priorities identified by First Nations, which includes jurisdiction over policing on reserve, essential services designation, and equitable funding.

Progress on legislative discussions was limited in 2024 due to mandate misalignment over jurisdiction and the 2025 federal election. However, there was broad agreement between the AFN and Public Safety Canada on the need for legislation recognizing First Nations policing as an essential service and ensuring equitable funding.

Based on substantial AFN advocacy throughout 2024, the 2025 Federal Liberal Platform notably committed to “support Indigenous-led processes for advancing self-determination and the exercise of jurisdiction in priority areas such as Community Safety and Public Safety” creating opportunities to continue to advance AFN mandates on policing with a new federal government.



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AFN resolutions focused on First Nations policing include:

- Resolution 07/2021, *Creation and Implementation of First Nations policing as an essential service.*
- Resolution 34/2021, *Support for Regionally Developed First Nations Policing Service.*
- Resolution 41/2023, *Support for Equitable Funding for First Nations Policing.*
- Resolution 42/2023, *Support for the Legal Challenge by Three First Nations Police Services.*
- 09/2024, *Support for Recognition of First Nations Jurisdiction over Policing*

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+

The AFN has continued to advocate for the full implementation of the National Inquiry's Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG and its 231 Calls for Justice.

To mark the sixth anniversary of the National Inquiry's Final Report, the AFN released an updated 2025 Calls for Justice Progress Report that provides a qualitative assessment of the Calls, focusing on human trafficking. In 2024–2025, the AFN participated in several initiatives, to inform its analysis, including the Sixth Convening of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls, a plenary session on human trafficking at the 2024 Special Chiefs Assembly, and an AFN National Virtual Forum on Advancing the MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice in March 2025. The AFN also participated in the second MMIWG2S+ Roundtable, providing feedback on the Red Dress Alert, MMIWG2S+ data, and human trafficking prevention efforts.

AFN resolutions focused on MMIWG2S+ include:

- Resolution 08/2021, *Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA People*
- Resolution 49/2022, *Support for Sustainable Funding and Accountability for the Implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice*
- Resolution 89/2023, *Call for Canada to Implement the National Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice relating to MMIWG2S+*
- Resolution 18/2024, *Call for Acceleration of MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan and Calls for Justice Implementation*



Truth and Reconciliation

The AFN continues to monitor and advocate for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and will release its annual progress report in 2025.

In 2024, the *National Council for Reconciliation Act* received Royal Assent, advancing Call to Action #53 through the creation of a National Council for Reconciliation (NCR). The Minister of Justice announced nine members of the inaugural Board of Directors to the NCR. The AFN participated in a national call-out process to identify an AFN Board candidate, and was pleased to select Harold Cochrane to the inaugural NCR Board.



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On October 29, 2024, the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves (Special Interlocutor) released their final Report "Sites of Truth, Sites of Consciousness." The Report identified 42 legal, moral, and ethical obligations that Canada must fulfill to address the legislative and structural gaps in identifying, protecting, and commemorating missing and disappeared children and their burials. The Government of Canada is required to provide a formal response, which is anticipated in 2025.

AFN resolutions focused on Truth and Reconciliation include:

- Resolution 01/2021, *Demanding Justice and Accountability for the Missing and Unidentified Children of Residential Schools*
- Resolution 34/2022, *Justice and Reconciliation for Indian Residential School Survivors and Missing Children and Unmarked Graves*
- Resolution 84/2024, *Support the Special Interlocutor's Indigenous-Led Reparations Framework*

Rights and Governance Sector

The AFN Rights and Governance Sector works to advance First Nations' rights and full jurisdiction by advocating for policy and legislative change, supporting increases in funding to First Nations in the areas of rights and governance, and undertaking information sharing and dialogue with First Nations and other key partners on issues such as citizenship, governance and fiscal relations, emergency management, rights and treaties, border mobility, and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA). This work is guided by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly.

Accomplishments 2024-2025

Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Since the passing of the UNDA and the release of Canada's National Action Plan, the AFN has worked to ensure implementation is First Nations-led and supported with adequate funding for First Nations full participation. AFN Resolution 33/2024, *Advancing First Nations Rights through Sustainable Funding, Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, mandates the AFN to advocate for sufficient, predictable, and sustainable funding. The AFN has incorporated this into advocacy efforts including letters, pre-budget submissions, and technical and senior leadership level discussions with the Department of Justice.

In 2024, the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples (APPA) began a study to examine the implementation of the UNDA. The AFN participated through multiple appearances and submissions, which included an appearance by AFN National Youth Council Chair Isaiah Bernard. However, due to the prorogation of Parliament, this study ended, and it remains unclear whether it will resume when the committee reconvenes.





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The Chiefs' Committee on the UNDA continues to provide advice on UNDA implementation, engaging in discussions with the Department of Justice and supporting the planning of the AFN UNDA National Policy Forum, hosted in February 2025. A critical element of this work includes monitoring and evaluating UNDA implementation. The AFN is working to create a progress report that provides successes, challenges, and recommendations for Canada to uphold the UN Declaration and meaningfully implement its articles.

In April 2025, the AFN National Chief and an AFN delegation attended the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the theme of "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges." Advocacy at this forum centred around addressing the global economic uncertainty and upholding the articles of the UN Declaration to meaningfully work alongside First Nations to address these challenges.

The AFN continues to work toward full collaboration between Canada and First Nations for the effective implementation of the UNDA. Through ongoing work, the AFN has advocated for First Nations' distinctions-based processes on assessing consistency of laws, creating oversight and accountability mechanisms, and improving Canada's annual reporting processes to ensure accountability and transparency for First Nations.

First Nations Citizenship and Identity Rights

The AFN continues to advance First Nations' jurisdiction over citizenship and identity through its participation in Canada's Indigenous Advisory Process (IAP) and related federal advocacy. This work is grounded in the right to self-determination and supported by mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly.

In 2024-25 the AFN engaged with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through the IAP on the development of First Nations-led alternatives to Indian Act registration and membership provisions, including reforms to the second-generation cut-off and Section 10 voting thresholds. This work is guided by Resolution 34/2024, *Advancing First Nations Self-Determination by Reforming Indian Act Registration*, and Resolution 68/2024, *Prioritization of Collaboration on the Second-Generation Cut-Off Rule*. Together, these mandates reinforce the need for co-developed legislative change and the prioritization of meaningful engagement with First Nations. Technical work this year included engagement planning and coordination with legal and governance experts to support the development of a national discussion paper outlining legislative options.

This work occurred alongside broader legislative developments related to Indigenous identity. Following sustained First Nations opposition, Bill C-53, *An Act respecting the recognition of certain Metis government in Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan*, was withdrawn from the House of Commons. The AFN supported advocacy efforts to ensure that all federal legislation respects the distinct status and rights of First Nations.

The AFN continues to advocate for First Nations-led reform of citizenship and registration policy and remains engaged in federal processes that impact identity and jurisdiction. Ongoing advocacy includes technical



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coordination, development of policy tools, and political engagement to ensure that federal initiatives respect First Nations' legal traditions, governance systems, and Treaty and inherent rights.

Governance and Fiscal Relations

The AFN continued to work with ISC to ensure First Nations driven approaches to the following recommendations from the 2019 Report of the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations (JACFR) and over the last year, has supported First Nations' calls for increased governance supports and funding in the following areas:

- **New Fiscal Relationship Transfer (The 10-Year Grant):** Expansion of the Grant to include Tribal Councils and Health Authorities.
- **Governance Modernization:** Supporting First Nations governance capacity through the modernization of ISC's governance capacity programs. This would complement efforts to strengthen the fiscal relationship with First Nations by enhancing both the ongoing core-funding and developmental and remedial supports.
- **Institution Building:** Co-developing options from the 2019 JACFR report including exploring the development of a First Nations Auditor General, and a First Nations Financial and Statistical Institute. These institutions would support First Nations capacity development and increased jurisdiction.

The AFN maintains that key elements of a New Fiscal Relationship between Canada and First Nations includes new funding arrangements and recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction, and the transfer of service delivery to First Nations governments and First Nations-led institutions. Resolution 92/2023, *Continued Action on the New Fiscal Relationship and the Reestablishment of the Chiefs' Committee on Fiscal Relations*, called on the AFN to reconvene the Chief's Committee on Fiscal Relations. The AFN is currently seeking funding to support the reestablishment of a Chiefs' Committee on Fiscal Relations and proposed activities.

Emergency Management

The AFN continues to advocate for equitable emergency services for First Nations, control of culturally relevant emergency management regimes, and access to direct-fund First Nations-led emergency management programs and services. This work is informed by resolutions put forward by First Nations-in-Assembly and ensures that First Nations have access to relevant capacity building, training, and funding resources to deal with emergency management events in their Nations and territories.

The AFN continues ongoing work with ISC and Public Safety Canada to advocate for emergency management policy and programming changes and increased funding to First Nations. The AFN is in the early stages of scoping research for continued policy reform and supporting new alternatives for equitable funding and improved service delivery.





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The Chiefs' Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM) last met in December of 2024. The CCEM discussed the need to bring First Nations involved in multilateral negotiations with federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Border Mobility

The Canada-United States border impacts First Nations' daily movements, traditional practices, economic opportunities, and family and cultural ties with Native Americans from the United States.

The AFN has undertaken information-sharing and engagement with First Nations affected by border issues to support the advocacy and the implementation of their inherent and Treaty rights, including the Jay Treaty. The AFN advocates to ensure First Nations border mobility rights are implemented and consistent with the minimum standards enshrined in the UNDRIP, and the Jay Treaty, which recognizes the inherent right of all First Nations in Canada and the United States to pass freely through their own homelands.

On October 10, 2024, IRCC announced temporary measures to help Indigenous Peoples in the United States reunite with their families in Canada and reconnect them with their traditional territories. These measures will allow eligible First Nations, whose family members live in Canada, to work or study in Canada with some requirements waived extend their stay for up to three years (for those who are already in Canada). The AFN continues to advocate for increased funding for First Nations to support this work and ensure First Nations are positioned to lead implementation.

The AFN continues to urge both the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States to fully recognize and implement the Treaty rights of First Nations as stipulated in the Jay Treaty and to develop long-term solutions that ensure safe and easy border mobility for First Nations.

The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

The AFN will continue to advance rights-based advocacy to achieve full recognition and manifestation of First Nations governments' Inherent and Treaty rights and jurisdiction. We look forward to our work in the year ahead, which will include:

- Taking next steps on the AFN First Nations Justice Strategy and advocating for substantial long-term funding to support First Nations driven implementation of the Justice Strategy.
- Contributing to the 10-year anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.
- Advocating for First Nations policing including the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction on reserve, essential services designation, and the development of equitable funding models that meet First Nations needs for policing and public safety.
- Contributing to the development of solutions to remove gender discrimination in the Indian Act and more towards full jurisdiction for First Nations over citizenship.
- Advocate for increases to funding for First Nations governments.
- Assess progress and support First Nations on implementation of UN Declaration.



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Social Branch

AFN's Community Services sector works in partnership with governments and First Nations communities to help develop culturally and linguistically-relevant education, health, culture, and family services that promote the well-being of First Nations communities in Canada.

Social Development Sector

The Social Development Sector is responsible for advocacy pertaining to First Nations control and jurisdiction over holistic and sustainable social development programs and policies across the life course.

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

Compensation and Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle

In April 2023, First Nations-in-Assembly approved the revised Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on compensation for First Nations children and their caregivers affected by Canada's discrimination under the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle, valued at over \$23.3 billion through AFN Resolution 04/2023, *Revised Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families*. In June 2024, the Federal Court approved the Claims Process for the first two of nine Classes and on March 10, 2025, the Claims Period opened for the Removed Child Class and Removed Child Family Class. The AFN continues to support the implementation of the Settlement Agreement and launch of the remaining seven Classes through collaboration with the Parties and the Administrator, in addition to supporting Claimant Compensation navigation through the Information Desk.

Based on prior mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly, the AFN negotiated an agreement on the long-term reform of the FNCFS program. On July 11, 2024, the AFN, along with other parties to the CHRT, announced a Draft Agreement on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program. The AFN hosted and attended regional engagement sessions with First Nations to provide an opportunity to seek clarity, provide recommendations for amendments, and share concerns on the Draft Agreement. Following the sessions, the AFN negotiated for the recommended amendments and provided a revised agreement for consideration.

The AFN hosted a Special Chiefs Assembly in October 2024, where First Nations-in-Assembly rejected the Draft Agreement on the long-term reform of FNCFS and provided further direction through several resolutions passed in October and December 2024. These resolutions created the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) to lead negotiations on the long-term reform of FNCFS.





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In December 2023, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society filed a non-compliance motion regarding Canada's failure to properly implement Jordan's Principle, resulting in delays for children. The AFN is participating in the non-compliance proceedings at the CHRT and continues to advocate for the full and proper implementation of Jordan's Principle to ensure that the needs of First Nations children are met. The AFN continues to advocate for investments in Jordan's Principle post-majority supports, pursuant to Resolution 93/2024, *Extending the Age of Eligibility for Jordan's Principle from the Age of Majority to 30 Years of Age*.

Implementation of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (the Act)

The AFN continued to support the ongoing implementation of the Act to advance First Nations priorities in accordance with AFN Resolution 16/2019, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families – Transition and Implementation Planning*. The AFN also concluded research and engagement work to facilitate informed progress on key priorities and better understand how to best support First Nations nationally. Pre-engagement discussions were initiated by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) on the five-year review of the Act, with the AFN advocating to ensure ISC collaborates with all First Nations to design the process for initiating and completing the review. The AFN supported advocacy efforts for ISC to renew capacity building support funding under the Act as per Resolution 92/2024, *Renewed Capacity-Building Funding Commitment for An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families*.



Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)

As supported through AFN Resolution 83/2017, *Support for the National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework*, a key strategic action identified in the Framework is the development of a results framework and evaluation strategy to collect useful information and data on First Nations ELCC to monitor outcomes of investments in childcare and inform future advocacy. The AFN is also developing a First Nations-determined funding model for ELCC, as mandated by AFN Resolution 59/2018, *First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Regional Funding Allocation Approach*, and subsequent resolutions, which the newly established Chiefs Committee on ELCC will review and make a recommendation on.



Income Assistance

The AFN and the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) supported the development of policy recommendations for Income Assistance (IA) Program reform, including supporting First Nations governance over the IA Program with increased resources for administration, data, and infrastructure and ensuring the IA Program meets the needs of clients with adequate rates and wrap-around supports, which were endorsed via AFN Resolution 07/2022, *Reform of the On-Reserve Income Assistance*



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Program and AFN Resolution 85/2023, Support for the Technical Working Group on Social Development to Continue Income Assistance Program Reform. The AFN commenced a two-year costing analysis in September 2024 using the policy recommendations. The AFN hosted the National Forum on Income Assistance in September 2024, which focused on discussing the First Nations-developed policy recommendations with IA administrators from each region.

Poverty Reduction

The AFN completed a study on First Nations-specific poverty indicators with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy in partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The study examines First Nations concepts and definitions of poverty, the current data on First Nations poverty, and identifies indicators endorsed by AFN Resolution 91/2024, *First Nations Indicators of Poverty and Wellness*. Furthermore, AFN Resolution 54/2024, *Income Assistance Program Reform and Poverty Reductions for First Nations*, directs the AFN and ESDC to co-develop an on-reserve poverty reduction strategy using the IA Program reform policy recommendations and the indicators of poverty. The AFN will continue to advocate for funding, renewed partnership and continuation of work on poverty reduction within First Nations.

Assisted Living

The AFN Health and Social Development Sectors are collaborating with ISC to co-develop policy recommendations for a wholistic long-term and continuing care framework through the reform of the Assisted Living and First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Programs. AFN Resolution 98/2023, *First Nations-created Policy Recommendations for a Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Framework* validated the recommendations, which were submitted to ISC to guide a Memorandum to Cabinet. The AFN will continue to advocate for funding and continued partnership to advance work identifying the long-term financial investments required to fully implement the policy recommendations.

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The AFN will continue to advocate for a timely, trauma-informed compensation process for our children and families as compensation implementation and distribution continues. The AFN will continue to pursue the full and proper implementation of Jordan's Principle, the development of a phased implementation plan for IA Program reform, and a First Nations on-reserve poverty reduction strategy.





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Health Sector

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Health Sector is committed to advocating for First Nations' Inherent, Treaty, and international rights pertaining to their health and well-being. The sector promotes wholistic, culture informed, and strengths-based approaches to supporting First Nations wellness. Central to the Health Sector's vision is the aspiration for First Nations to control their own health systems, supported by adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding. Self-determined, culturally appropriate care are favorable to improving health outcomes and advance health equity for First Nations families and communities.

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

- **Key Issues: Non-Insured Health Benefits**
 - o Through the AFN-NIHB Joint Review, the AFN Health sector addresses the ongoing detrimental impacts of restrictive fiscal and eligibility/denial policies.
 - o NIHB Navigators note that substandard accommodations, medical transportation gaps, long wait times for reimbursement of out-of-pocket benefit costs, unclear appeals processes, and the sparsity of service providers are longstanding challenges.
- **Key Resolutions**
 - o Resolution 42-2024, Treaty Medicine Chest Clause Political and Legal Strategy
 - o Resolution 74-2024, Expanding NIHB Coverage to Include Allied Health Services
 - o Resolution 75-2024, NIHB Medical Transportation (MT) Policy Discrimination to First Nations
 - o Resolution 78-2024, Enhanced Emergency Service Management and Naloxone Access to Address First Nations Dying at Higher Rates
- **Key Issues: Disabilities**
 - o An AFN Shadow Report was submitted in February 2024 to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to advocate for First Nations persons with disabilities rightful access to resources, services and supports.
 - o The AFN implemented a survey to inform a Distinct First Nations Accessibility Legislation and presented the results at several national policy forums to inform rights-holders.
 - o The AFN's aim is to be a model of accessibility for First Nations and continues to make AFN events accessible and inclusive for all participants, and established the AFN Accessibility Hub of Excellence, <https://afn.ca/a-first-nations-accessibility-hub-of-excellence/> to support First Nations and the regions to become accessible.



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Key Resolutions

- o Resolution 03-2024, Establishment of an AFN Accessibility /Disability Council
- o Resolution 40-2024 First Nations with Disabilities Across the Lifespan Services
- o Resolution 41-2024, Work to Address Misdiagnosis in First Nations
- o Resolution 71-2024, Rejecting the Accessible Canada Act and Advancing Distinct First Nations Accessibility Legislation.



Key Issues: Mental Wellness and Substance Use

- o AFN continues to advocate for the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program to be permanently and equitably funded, through solutions which include First Nations-led services and programs.
- o Advancing Resolution 78-2024, the AFN aims to reform policy ensuring First Nations have access to substance use recovery resources to address emerging health emergencies through the Health Emergency Management funding envelope.
- o Through Resolution 63-2023, the Mental Wellness Data Working Group developed a workplan to address data access challenges on mental wellness and identified opportunities for collaboration.

Key Resolutions

- o Resolution 24-2021, Call for the Permanency of the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program
- o Resolution 33-2022, Justice and Reconciliation for Indian Residential School Survivors and Missing Children and Unmarked Graves
- o Resolution 63-2023, Conduct a Longitudinal Study on Strength-based Indicators in Mental Wellness
- o Resolution 78-2024, Enhanced Emergency Service Management and Naloxone Access to Address First Nations Dying at Higher Rates

Key Issues: Public Health

- o First Nations in northern remote communities experience tuberculosis (TB) rates 4x the national average. Efforts to eliminate TB must include investments into the social determinants of health.
- o The AFN Health Sector received funding from PHAC for a meeting with frontline workers in northern



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communities to identify the foundations of a national strategy. The strategy will be validated for presentation at the Special Chiefs Assembly 2025 in Ottawa.

Key Resolutions

- o Resolution 77-2204 Developing a First Nations Tuberculosis Elimination Strategy in Canada

Key Issues: Racism in Health Care Systems

- Racism in health care systems is a historical reality for First Nations; current expressions of racism have led to fatalities and contributes to worsening health outcomes due to mistrust and unsafe health care.
- The AFN Health Sector is mandated to develop a national cultural safety and humility standard that will be implemented nationally. We collaborate with the Health Standards Organization and a First Nations Technical Committee to articulate and validate a Standard that should be completed in 2027.

Key Resolutions:

- o Resolution 30-2023 Towards a National Cultural Safety and Humility Standard
- o Resolution 80-2024 Call for a National Cultural Safety and Humility Standard

Key Issues: Long-term and Continuing Care

- In spring 2024, the AFN submitted recommendations to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to improve the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program and Assisted Living, emphasizing culturally safe, community-based, self-determined care; as of May 2025, ISC has not advanced these reforms.
- The Health Sector also hosted a national roundtable in Montreal, bringing together regional, community, and government partners to identify care challenges, strengthen the workforce, and improve service coordination.
- AFN remains committed to advocating for a modernized, distinctions-based, and fully funded continuum of care that meets the needs of First Nations aging in community.

Key Resolutions

- o Resolution 98-2023 First Nations-Created Policy Recommendations for a Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care Framework





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Key Issues: *The Seven Generations Continuum of Care*

- The AFN has released a new foundational document titled *Applying a Seven Generations Continuum of Care in First Nations Healthcare: Factors and Considerations (2025)*. The Seven Generations Continuum of Care is a wholistic, strengths-based, and culturally grounded approach that addresses health and wellness needs across the lifespan, from preconception to end-of-life.
- The document serves as both a visual and practical tool for First Nations, defining ten core components of care and emphasizes First Nations sovereignty, self-determination, and the integration of traditional and biomedical knowledge systems.

Key Resolutions

- o Resolution 19-2019 Developing a Seven Generations Continuum of Care for First Nations, by First Nations of Health, Economic and Social Services

Conclusion - The Path Ahead

- Address persistent challenges in the NIHB program, including restrictive policies, inadequate accommodations, medical transportation gaps, reimbursement delays, and limited service-provider availability;
- Advocate for self-determined, culturally appropriate, and adequately funded First Nations health systems, ensuring communities have control over their own health and wellness services; and
- Urge government action to secure sustainable funding for First Nations health programs, close service gaps, provide culturally safe care close to home, and advance health equity for First Nations individuals, families, and communities.





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Languages and Learning Sector

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Languages and Learning Sector advocates for First Nations control of First Nations education, the inherent and Treaty right to education, and the right to equitable funding that meets the needs and unique circumstances of First Nations and their learners.

The AFN also advocates for long-term, sustainable, consistent, and appropriate approaches to support First Nations in their effort to recover, reclaim, maintain, strengthen and normalize First Nations languages through the implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act (ILA).

The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) provide recommendations to advance advocacy and support mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly.

Accomplishments 2024-2025:

Key Issues

General

The AFN provides support and advocacy for several key priorities and mandates, including elementary and secondary education (K-12), post-secondary education (PSE), education infrastructure, languages revitalization and implementing the First Nations National Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL). In 2024/2025, the AFN hosted over 25 meetings between the CCOE, CCOL, National Indian Education Council (NIEC), and Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL), which resulted in updating and improving various program guidelines, draft amendments to the NIEC/CCOE Terms of References, and the Indigenous Languages Program (ILP) Terms and Conditions.

The AFN successfully hosted the Education Forum, “Reigniting the Flames of our Ancestors” in February 2025, which brought together nearly 400 First Nations leadership, Directors of Education, Education Administrators, and Post-Secondary Educators to share information, exchange best practices, and highlight regional experiences in advancing First Nations control of First Nations education.

Languages

Supporting the implementation and strengthening of the ILA remains a focus for the AFN, including ongoing discussions with the Joint Implementation Steering Committee on the review process for the ILA. The AFN supported the TCOL and CCOL in seeking national consensus for the implementation of an interim regional allocation formula to be applied to Budget 2024 languages funding. Furthermore, the AFN commissioned a research contract on Language Endangerment Risk Data Source





Branch & Sector Reports



Assessment and Collection, supported the drafting of the Office of the Commissioner for Indigenous Languages (OCIL) complaint and implementation of the CCOL/TCOL Strategic Plan and Work Plan.

The AFN continues to support and implement the First Nations National Action Plan for the IDIL. In 2024/2025, this included participating in the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Global Task Force meetings and appointing AFN's representatives, Dr. Lorna William and Blaire Gould, to the 2025/2027 Global Task Force.

Elementary and Secondary Education (K-12)

The AFN advocates for First Nations control of First Nations education and continues to support the finalization of Regional Education Agreements (REAs). There are currently 11 completed REAs, with only nine active, and over 70 underway. Approximately 30% of First Nations are under an agreement.

The AFN completed and published the First Nations K-12 Education Transformation Review and Costing Analysis report, which identifies the positive impacts and drawbacks of the Interim Funding Formula and REAs. The AFN also worked with the IFSD Advisors Ltd. on research reviewing the state of adult education across the country and a full costing analysis for First Nations adult education.



Post Secondary Education

The AFN continues to prioritize research and communications efforts that promote the its existing budget advocacy in PSE for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPPP).

The AFN initiated several PSE research projects in 2024/2025, including identifying gaps in funding sources for First Nations Institutions (FNIs) compared to non-Indigenous institutions. Additional research was initiated to evaluate public post-secondary institutions and their commitments to First Nations and reconciliation, including the impacts of their actions and policies to support First Nations students.

Education Infrastructure

The AFN, CCOE, and NIEC have continued to make significant progress to improving and reforming various education infrastructure policy priorities, including the School Priority Ranking Framework (SPRF), and work toward comprehensive capital reform for First Nations education infrastructure. This work will continue with the goal of securing sufficient, predictable, and sustainable core funding to replace the existing proposal-based programming. Future co-development and policy changes will be required to promote First Nations regional control and decision-making for education assets.

The AFN has commissioned the First Nations Education Infrastructure Capital and O&M Needs Assessment, which will identify existing and anticipated education infrastructure capital and O&M needs on reserve across Canada. This research will continue to inform the AFN's ongoing advocacy on Closing the Infrastructure Gap.



Branch & Sector Reports



The AFN, CCOE, and NIEC have also co-developed additional changes to the School Space Accommodation Standard extended tables, which increase the standard allocations for gym sizes.

Key Resolutions

- AFN Resolution 19/2024, First Nations Languages Regional Allocation Formula
- AFN Resolution 51/2024, Chronic Underfunding in Education
- AFN Resolution 52/2024, National School Food Program
- AFN Resolution 100/2024, Support for increased First Nations languages funding

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

In the 2025-26 fiscal year, the AFN will focus on the following priorities:

- Supporting the Independent and Parliamentary Review of the ILA.
- Ongoing advocacy for adequate, sustainable and long-term funding for language revitalization including renewal of Section 8 & 9 Agreements.
- Updating the First Nations Control of First Nations Education (2010) policy document.
- Activities supporting the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Global Task Force.
- Finalizing the AFN Adult Education Program and Capital Needs Assessment research projects.
- Ongoing promotion of the AFN It's Our Time Toolkit mobile application.
- Co-developing First Nations education infrastructure capital processes reform.



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01/2024, Addressing National Chief Election Voting Deadlocks

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Charter was updated, along with an updated AFN Conference Booklet, that was approved by the Executive Committee in September 2024 and implemented at the October 2024 SCA.

02/2024, Clarifying Rules and Procedures for Establishing Quorum at AFN Assemblies

The AFN Charter was updated, along with the Rules of Procedure for AFN Assemblies. These were incorporated in an updated AFN Conference Booklet that was approved by the Executive Committee in September 2024 and implemented at the October 2024 SCA.

03/2024, Establishment of an AFN Accessibility/Disability Council

A draft Terms of Reference, letter for regional representation, and letter of commitment have been drafted for the ad-hoc Knowledge Keepers and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Circle for review as part of the process of establishing the AFN Accessibility and Disability Council.

04/2024, Response to Report on Preliminary Audit of AFN Finances

Preliminary discussions with the Management Committee on the areas of focus within the Finance Policy have been conducted. The Finance Policy has also been reviewed by the CEO and Vice-President of Operations and Administration. Focus areas include travel, purchasing (contracts), and credit cards. The updated policy was approved by the AFN Executive on February 6, 2024.

05/2024, Financial Security for AFN Regional Offices

Initial discussions with Indigenous Services Canada / Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada have taken place regarding a 10-year funding plan, which would include Regional funding. AFN Finance has conducted bi-lateral discussions regarding the Core budget requirements of each region. Discussions with CIRNA on regional agreements is ongoing.

06/2024, Support for Increased Attendance of Members at AFN Assemblies

The AFN has continued to host its Assemblies in a hybrid format – in-person with a virtual option – as a basis to make these Assemblies more accessible. This will continue as long as the facilities and funding to do so remain available.

07/2024, Support for the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council Mandate and Funding

A letter was sent from the National Chief to the Minister of Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) advocating for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council to be adequately funded. The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council met with the former Ministers Marci Ien, Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), and Gary Anandasangaree, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), at its December meeting. The Council is also working to identify partnerships with similar organizations such as the 2Spirits in Motion Society and Egale Canada.



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08/2024, Call for Independent Inquiry into the Deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe

The AFN met with the Honourable Anita R. Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, to immediately establish an independent Commission of Inquiry into the deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe (Ashlee Shingoose). The AFN continued to push to ensure the investigations were handled in a culturally safe and trauma-informed way consistent with the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

09/2024, Support for Recognition of First Nations Jurisdiction over Policing

In Fall 2024, a letter was sent to Minister Leblanc by the policing portfolio holders (RC Teegee and RC Picard) requesting a meeting to discuss commitments and forward movement on co-development, equitable funding, and inherent/treaty rights over policing.

10/2024, Advancing Additions to Reserve Reform

The AFN participated in technical discussions on the redesign of the Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy with Canada through a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The AFN held a series of virtual roundtables with First Nations technicians and leadership in fall 2024 to gather input on priorities for ATR reform. The AFN will continue its participation in the TAC or its equivalent to advocate for the direct and meaningful participation of First Nations in the reform of the ATR Policy.

11/2024, Ensuring Access to Justice for Specific Claims through Policy Reform

The AFN worked with the Government of Canada through the Specific Claims Implementation Working Group (SCIWG) to jointly develop a proposal for an Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specific Claims. As part of this process, the AFN advocated for policy-based reforms to advance access to justice for First Nations, including expanding compensation and removing barriers to land restitution. The AFN will continue these reform discussions with the new federal government.

12/2024, Urgent Support for the Repatriation of First Nations Lands

The AFN engaged in technical discussions on Additions to Reserve (ATR) and Specific Claims reform, advocating for reforms that support the various efforts of First Nations for the return their lands. The AFN also advocated for alternative approaches to indemnification and finality in specific claims settlement agreements. Through the ATR Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the AFN supported the Chippewas of the Thames (COTT) proposed pilot project to facilitate the return of lands to COTT.

13/2024, Exercise of Inherent and Treaty Rights on All Treaty/Crown Lands

The AFN has sought resources to ensure full participation in processes related to the management of Crown lands. While these efforts have not yet been successful, the AFN will continue to seek funding opportunities to support participation in these processes. The AFN will also continue to seek dedicated funding to support regional engagement and participation.



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14/2024, Call for Co-developed Decarceration Strategy and Full Implementation of the Correctional Investigator's Recommendations

The AFN carried out a range of initiatives in 2024-25 to address the overrepresentation of First Nations people in the correctional system. This included the joint development of an Indigenous Justice Strategy and an AFN First Nations Justice Strategy that seek to address overrepresentation and advance decarceration, and ongoing work to advocate for full implementation of the MMIWG Calls for Justice.

15/2024, Call for Renewed Support of the Co-Development and Implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy

The AFN held several technical meetings with Justice Canada to discuss the First Nations components of the Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) and attended Justice Canada-led discussions in summer 2024 to inform co-implementation. Meetings with the BC First Nations Justice Council and the Chiefs Committee on Justice were also held to help draft First Nations components of the IJS. Justice Canada released the IJS on March 10, 2025.

16/2024, Call for Prosecution and Enforcement of First Nations Laws On-Reserve

AFN's advocacy supporting the prosecution and enforcement of First Nations laws on-reserve focused on the development and implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy. Critical to this work is advocacy to secure resources to support First Nations efforts to create and enforce their laws. In early 2025, the AFN hosted a National Forum focused on the revitalization and enforcement of First Nations laws. Further work is required to secure commitments from the Government of Canada to fulfill this resolution.

17/2024, Call for International Collaboration on MMIWG2S+ and Rescinding Support for Leonard Peltier

A letter was sent to Annie Mae Pictou Aquash's family stating that any support for Leonard Peltier from the AFN has been rescinded. Also, the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls with Mexico, the United States, and Canada were convened where the AFN contributed to discussions highlighting the need for more collaboration. Further, at the 2025 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the AFN advocated for international collaboration on border mobility, MMIWG2S+, and overincarceration.

18/2024, Call for Acceleration of MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan and Calls for Justice Implementation

Throughout 2024-25, the AFN advocated for accelerated implementation of the MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan and Calls for Justice, including through a National Virtual Forum on Advancing the MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice (Human Trafficking and Sexual Trafficking Prevention), several Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings, AFN 2025 election advocacy, and in numerous other forums and spaces. The AFN is carrying out a thematic analysis on the Calls for Justice focused on human trafficking that was released on the sixth anniversary of the National Inquiry's Final Report into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (June 3, 2025).



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19/2024, First Nation Language Regional Allocation Formula

A formal complaint to the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (OCIL) has been approved by the Technical and Chiefs Committees on Language, including a recommendation for unused OCIL funds to be routed to funding for the Indigenous Languages Component. The AFN has commissioned research into data sources for establishing language endangerment, which is currently underway. In November 2024 and March 2025, the AFN hosted strategic planning sessions for the Chiefs and Technical Committees on Language. As of July 2024, the Department of Canadian Heritage adopted the interim funding approach and has been instructed to allocate unused funding to regions with the highest need.

20/2024, First Nations Inclusion in the Transformation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

The AFN advocated through the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for increased funding to support First Nations-led acquisition and transformation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Additionally, the Interprovincial Working Group has a standing placeholder at the regular meetings of the National Fisheries Committee. The AFN has also conducted in-depth technical meetings with officials from Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the process, timeline, and bidding criteria to promote continued market access for rural, remote, and isolated First Nation fish harvesters.

21/2024, First Nations Continued Inclusion in Canada's Oceans Protection Plan and Marine Safety Emergency Planning

The AFN continues to participate in the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) technical working group and co-drafted a What We Heard Report, outlining an assessment of the quality of the relationships with affected First Nations under the OPP. The AFN also provided technical support for the Safe Inland Waters workshop, hosted in Scantebury, Manitoba, in January 2025, which focused on inland waters emergency response strategies and ecologically sensitive areas.

22/2024, 2024 Fisheries Act 5-Year Review to Ensure Alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The AFN hosted technical meetings and developed legislative proposals for introduction to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) as part of its review of the Fisheries Act. The AFN also provided technical support for the Safe Inland Waters workshop which focused on inland waters emergency response strategies and ecologically sensitive areas.

23/2024, First Nations Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Approaches

The AFN advocated through the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for increased funding to support First Nations-led conservation and protection strategies for wild Atlantic salmon. Ongoing advocacy also took place through the Joint Planning Table, a regularized technical meeting between the AFN and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



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24/2024, Treaty-protected Right- Based Glass Eel Fishery Governance

The AFN advocated for rights-based glass eel fisheries by hosting dialogue sessions at both the July and December Assemblies and through Joint Planning Table meetings with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The AFN sent correspondence in July 2024 to the Minister of DFO supporting affected First Nations' views on glass elver fishery regulation and urging constructive meetings. The National Fisheries Committee has prioritized elver fisheries as a standing item on all future meeting agendas.

25/2024, Advocating for an ambitious, fully funded, and implemented First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCLA)

On January 8, 2025, a letter was sent from the National Chief to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. The letter urged Canada to fully implement and fund the recommendations outlined by First Nations Regional Leads. Due to the change in government, the status of the anticipated Memorandum to Cabinet is now uncertain. A second letter was sent by Regional Chief Adamek to the newly appointed Minister of Environment and Climate Change to encourage renewed commitment to the FNCLA process and to First Nations Climate Leadership more broadly. The AFN will continue hosting meetings with First Nations Regional Leads to coordinate advocacy efforts.

26/2024, First Nation Participation in the Development of a Right to a Healthy Environment Implementation Framework and Environmental Justice Strategy

The AFN is engaged in ongoing dialogue with file leads from Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada. The AFN co-hosted and facilitated a National Climate Gathering Concurrent Session on First Nations Perspectives on Environmental Racism and Justice with the David Suzuki Foundation. The AFN is conducting a review of Environment and Climate Change Canada's draft Right to a Healthy Environment Implementation Framework, required by recent amendment to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999. The AFN hosted a webinar November 7, 2024, on Environmental Racism and Justice. The AFN hosted a webinar November 21, 2024, on the Right to a Healthy Environment Implementation Framework. The AFN is working to secure funding to support the establishment of a bilateral table/mechanism on environmental health.

27/2024, Full and Effective Participation of First Nations in Canada's Nature Agenda

The AFN has been involved in drafting processes of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) through three drafts of written feedback on the Strategy, guided by engagement with First Nations and the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE). The First Nations Nature Table is a bilateral table between the AFN and director-level Federal representatives. The AFN submitted technical feedback on the draft Nature Accountability Bill and submitted written recommendations to the House Committee in Fall 2024 calling for appropriate levels of funding for First Nations leadership in conservation.



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28/2024, Participation of First Nations in the development of an international, legally-binding Plastics Treaty

The AFN received resources for technical participation at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee, as well as the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee. Both sessions have been opportunities to advance the calls outlined by the First Nations-in-Assembly.

29/2024, Removing Impacts and Reasserting First Nations Jurisdiction and Authority in Carbon Pollution Pricing

Within his first week of office, Prime Minister Carney removed the consumer carbon price, ending the imposition of carbon pricing on First Nations. It is expected that Prime Minister Carney will formally repeal the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act in the fall 2025 Parliamentary session, focusing on industrial carbon pricing. Political advocacy to determine the implication of this repeal is ongoing.

30/2024, Protection of the Bathurst Caribou Herd

A letter was submitted from Regional Chief Adamek to the US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland calling for 'the immediate repeal of the language within the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act allowing oil and gas exploration within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The letter also calls on the US Administration to uphold the commitments within the 'Agreement Between Canada and the U.S. on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd (1987). Additionally, caribou conservation broadly remains an issue of discussion and deliberation at the First Nations Nature Table (FNNT).

31/2024, Support for Dene First Nations to Address Contamination from the Exxon Imperial Oil Limited Kearl Mine Site:

Due to the 2025 federal election and prorogation of Parliament, the AFN delayed letters to outgoing Ministers. Updated drafts now include newly appointed Ministers and the incoming President of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). The AFN will send the letters, urging meaningful consultation with Dene First Nations and their full involvement in decisions regarding the Exxon Imperial Oil Kearl Mine contamination.

32/2024, Protection of Drinking Water for Anishinaabe

The AFN issued a letter of support for the Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation in their call for a moratorium on exploration and mining activities that threaten drinking water. The AFN also completed a report on nuclear waste issues and drafted a discussion paper on Canada Water Act amendments. These efforts aim to strengthen First Nations-led and co-developed approaches to water governance and better protect freshwater systems.

33/2024, Advancing First Nations Rights through Sustainable Funding: Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Throughout 2024, the AFN advocated for sufficient, predictable, and sustaining funding for First Nations and their representative bodies to meaningfully participate in the co-implementation of the UNDA. This included a pre-budget submission to expand the Indigenous Partnership Fund (IPF) and advocacy through the AFN-



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Canada UNDA Joint Working Group. Letters were drafted to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), copying relevant federal departments and central agencies. These letters will be utilized in on-going efforts to seek adequate resources for the implementation of the UNDA.

34/2024, Advancing First Nations' Self-Determination by Reforming Indian Act Registration

A letter was sent to the Ministers of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) advocating for increased First Nation jurisdiction over citizenship and membership. An additional letter was sent to the Minister of CIRNAC from the National Chief advocating for the need for First Nations citizenship to be a federal budget priority. The AFN was a participant in the Indigenous Advisory Process and submitted a report that outlined First Nations priorities for citizenship and jurisdiction over membership provisions. The AFN provided an update on this work at the AFN Special Chiefs' Assembly in December 2024 and the AFN National Forum on the UN Declaration Act in February 2025.

35/2024, Amendments to the First Nation's Election Act to Allow Electronic Voting

The AFN met with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to advocate for changes to the First Nations Election Act. The AFN continues to advocate for funding to support First Nations' self-determination in governance and citizenship.

36/2024, Call for Crown Support of First Nations Developed Consultation and Accommodation Guidelines

The AFN continues to advocate to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to support First Nations' participation in updating the federal guidelines on the duty to consult. The AFN has drafted a letter to the Minister of CIRNAC highlighting the importance of ensuring First Nations are adequately involved in updating the federal guidelines. Federal Budget 2023 provided \$11.4 million over three years, starting in 2023-24, to CIRNAC to engage with Indigenous communities. Federal Engagement activities will inform the development of new federal guidelines for federal officials to fulfil the Crown's duty to consult Indigenous Peoples and accommodate impacts on their rights.

37/2024, Support for Sufficient, Predictable and Sustainable Funding for First Nations

The AFN continues to work with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) on furthering the expansion of the New Fiscal Relationship (NFR) Grant and expanding other funding mechanisms to support First Nations' governance capacity. In Summer 2024, the AFN submitted a joint annex with the First Nations Financial Management Board, and AFOA Canada on an ISC Memorandum to Cabinet that would seek increased funding to First Nations for governance.

38/2024, Amending the Statutory Instruments Act and Cabinet Directive on Regulation to Require Assessment of a Regulation's Impacts on First Nations

The AFN sent a letter to the Treasury Board and the Department of Justice requesting First Nations involvement in amending the Statutory Instruments Act.



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39/2024 - Establishment of and funding for a First Nation Healing Fund

The AFN continues to meet with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to advocate for the creation of a First Nation Healing Fund that is supported by long-term, equitable funding to support culturally appropriate and trauma informed healing centers. The AFN has drafted a letter to ISC to communicate the resolution and its significance. The AFN also continues to communicate with regional representatives on the importance of healing centers within areas.

40/2024 First Nations with Disabilities Across the Lifespan Services

The AFN Shadow Report to the United Nations continues to serve as an advocacy tool to support efforts to address First Nations with disabilities across the lifespan. Several surveys, and dialogues have been carried out and continue with First Nations on the National Autism Strategy, Canada Disability Inclusion Action Plan, and the Canada Disability Benefit.

41/2024, Work to Address Misdiagnosis in First Nations

The AFN Shadow Report to the United Nations continues to serve as an advocacy and awareness tool on the crisis of misdiagnosis in First Nations. The AFN drafted the Guidelines for a Feasibility Study on Misdiagnosis to support advocacy efforts and to secure resources to undertake a fully funded feasibility study to address misdiagnosis in First Nations. Discussions continue with the Canadian Medical Association including several federal departments to secure funding for this initiative.

42/2024, Treaty Medicine Chest Clause Political and Legal Strategy

A legal analysis is underway that includes how Treaty rights are impacted or influenced by the NIHB program, the legal obligations of the federal government for health under the Treaties, and what legal avenues are available for First Nations who want to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses? The findings from this review will support numbered Treaty Nations in developing their own self-determined political and legal strategies to address these Treaty breaches.

43/2024, Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act

The AFN advocated for Bill C-61 before prorogation of government. Advocacy efforts included written and oral presentation to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) on October 10, 2024; supporting regional engagement sessions to gather feedback, priorities, and ensure inclusion in decision-making, and letters; and outreach to Parliamentarians to strengthen the language and to expedite enactment. The AFN prioritized resolving long-standing drinking water advisories in First Nations and pressing the federal government to expedite actions and commit to ongoing efforts to end all short-term and long-term water advisories and legacy water issues.

44/2024, Support for First Nations-Led Responses to Chronic and Unsheltered Homelessness

In 2024-25, AFN raised formal concerns with the federal government regarding the exclusion of First Nations from the Budget 2024 \$250 million encampment funding envelope and called for transparent, rights-based funding guidelines. The AFN is working through the Joint Technical Working Group on Housing, Related Infrastructure and Homelessness, which includes Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada to



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explore options for ensuring First Nations-specific inclusion in current and future encampment response efforts. Engagement with the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate continues in support of accountability, public transparency and the implementation of human rights-based community action plans that reflect First Nations jurisdiction.

45/2024, Transition of the First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nations Control

The AFN works closely with the First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) to ensure its First Nations engagement sessions held in the fall of 2024 and others scheduled into early 2025 provide all First Nations an opportunity to voice their views on the preferred options for exercising control over the FNMHF in the future. The FNMHF has changed its approach slightly by foregoing support to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's original plan to have the Cabinet consider a recommendation in late 2024 or within the term of the current federal government. Instead, it will prioritize ensuring all First Nations engagements are complete without rushing the work. The AFN is seeking more details from the FNMHF as to options for First Nations exercising control and the results of the engagement sessions. The AFN will continue to monitor the FNMHF's activities and report progress regularly to the Assembly and the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure.

46/2024, Remote Airport Infrastructure Funding for Required Upgrades

The AFN met with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) on how best to approach the advocacy required under this resolution. AFN will work closely with NAN and others on first sending letters to the Premier and MPP (Ontario) and letters from Regional Chief Mitchell to Ministers responsible for transportation. The AFN will continue to research and quantify the needs related to First Nations remote airports and ensure they are incorporated into the Closing the Infrastructure Gap work, initiatives and advocacy messaging.

47/2024, Supporting Public Education on First Nations Cultures and Histories

The AFN is drafting communication materials on the significance of 'time immemorial' as a concept that connects First Nations to their homelands. The AFN is identifying opportunities to incorporate the concept of time immemorial into federal public servant training on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

48/2024, Support for First Nations Accessing ICMP Expertise for Missing Children, Unmarked Graves, and Burial Sites Associated with the Former Indian Residential Schools

In 2024-25, the AFN continued to seek opportunities to advocate and support First Nations doing the difficult and important work investigating former Indian Residential School sites. The AFN continues to advocate to the Government of Canada for funding to support the creation of a Chiefs Committee on Indian Residential Schools.

49/2024, Advocating for full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations

The AFN has engaged in discussions with other National Indigenous Organizations (NIOs) about potential collaboration and a joint application for federal funding opportunities, aiming to enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation in the United Nations (UN) system. In September 2024, the AFN actively participated in several



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significant UN events held in New York City. These events included the Summit of the Future, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Action Days, New York City Climate Week, and the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) meeting.

50/2024, Bringing Our Own Children Home Under Our Governance

The AFN participated in technical discussions with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through a Technical Working Group on An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (the Act). Through this Working Group, the AFN continues to call on Canada to support First Nations in pursuing whatever avenue of exercising jurisdiction they choose. The AFN is also proactively working to ensure its work in supporting the ongoing implementation of the Act avoids creating barriers for First Nations seeking to exercise jurisdiction outside the Act.

51/2024, Chronic Underfunding in Education

The AFN continues to call for increased funding for First Nations Education through pre-budget submissions, adjustments to Terms and Conditions/Guidelines, and commissioned research. In partnership with the National Indian Education Council and the Chiefs Committee on Education, the AFN has pursued changes to the Post-Secondary Education Terms and Conditions to unlock the Post-Secondary Student Support Program investment made under Budget 2024 and education infrastructure policy priorities through the School Priority Ranking Framework. The AFN is wrapping up its Adult Education Program and Capital Needs Assessment and undertaking the First Nations Education Infrastructure Capital and Operations and Maintenance Needs Assessment. These projects will inform future pre-budget submissions, policy proposals, and general advocacy efforts. The AFN is consulting with AFN Legal on an analysis of the potential for a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal complaint due to chronic underfunding of First Nations education.

52/2024, National School Food Program

Budget 2024 provided \$38 million for First Nations students on-reserve under the National School Food Program. Funding is provided directly to First Nations students on the nominal roll and provides First Nations with flexibility on how it is spent to support food sovereignty. This funding seeks to achieve provincial comparability and enhance school food funding levels to a national standard of \$385 per headcount per First Nations student in 2024-25. The AFN Languages and Learning Sector continues to work with Employment and Social Development Canada and Indigenous Services Canada to ensure all program authorities are developed with First Nations. Policy changes are not expected over the next three years.

53/2024, State of First Nations Education Sovereignty in Canada & Globally

Measure 19 and regionally-based First Nations implementation and evaluation of the UNDA Action Plan: The AFN and Department of Justice continue to meet through the AFN-Department of Justice UNDA Working Group to discuss mandates related to the UN Declaration. The AFN advocated to the Department of Justice to amend the UNDA Action Plan to align with the resolution. The AFN received indication that there is no intent by Canada to amend the current National Action Plan. AFN is beginning to advocate for a process for First Nations to lead in identifying priorities and updates to replace the current Action Plan, set to conclude in 2028.



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54/2024, Income Assistance Program Reform and Poverty Reduction for First Nations

The AFN continues to advocate for additional funding to advance work on First Nations poverty alleviation and provide immediate support to First Nations experiencing poverty. A letter was sent to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada advocating for the immediate reinstatement of the inflation relief benefit within the Income Assistance Program, in addition to a funding proposal to conduct research on a First Nations-specific guaranteed livable income.

55/2024, Continued Rejection and Denouncement of Métis Illegitimate Rights Assertions

As a result of First Nations and the AFN's continued advocacy around Bill C-53, An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, completed second reading but did not move forward to Royal Assent. The AFN will continue to monitor and seek opportunities to advance its mandates in alignment with this resolution. In 2024, the AFN sent letters to all provinces, territories, and the federal government emphasizing the need for First Nations' free, prior and informed consent on any matters that impact First Nations.

56/2024, Support for the Pehta Foundation and First Nations Involvement in the Pehta Framework

The AFN met with the Pehta Foundation Executive Director, Aaron Lambie, who provided a presentation on the Pehta Framework to the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development at a virtual meeting on February 4, 2025. Since then, Mr. Lambie has continued to provide updates on the progress of the Pehta Framework to the AFN. In March 2025, the National Chief sent a letter to the Canadian Sustainability Standards Board recommending the Pehta Framework as an approach to advance Indigenous-focused sustainability disclosure standards.

57/2024, Inherent Right to Community Development Planning

The AFN has reached out to Saskatchewan First Nation leadership to start discussions around Community Development Planning. In January 2025, a letter was sent to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada outlining the impacts of underfunding of First Nations and advocating for more long-term sustainable funding for Community Development Planning.

58/2024, A National Strategy on Animal Care and Control in First Nations

AFN has met with leaders from two relevant organizations to begin to develop relationships with key stakeholders. The next step is to identify a task force to develop this strategy. Ultimately, the goal of this resolution is a by-law template that could be implemented in First Nations communities to enhance capacity for animal care and control.

59/2024, Political Support for Energy Security for First Nations in Saskatchewan

The AFN is currently investigating potential partners and funding sources after having coordinated an initial meeting with Indigenous Services Canada. The next step is to connect with relevant AFN sectors to advocate to Ministers and others for greater First Nations energy security.



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60/2024, Addressing Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle; and

61/2024, Meaningful Consultation on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services:

As directed by AFN Resolutions passed at the October and December Special Chiefs Assemblies, the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) has been mandated to take the lead on negotiations on the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program. The Social Development sector has been supporting the NCCC with the development of a workplan and budget with submission to Indigenous Services Canada. The AFN has been working with the NCCC on the development of a collaboration agreement to ensure that the AFN and NCCC are able to effectively work in collaboration to end the discrimination in the FNCFS Program and ensure it does not recur. Additionally, advocacy efforts are ongoing to ensure the Government of Canada returns to the negotiation table and recognizes and addresses the impacts of the child welfare system on First Nations children and families in the Northwest Territories (NWT). These efforts focus on securing fair inclusion of the Dene Nation and NWT First Nations in negotiations related to the Long-Term Reform (LTR) Agreement and any future class actions involving First Nations' child and family services programs.

62/2024, Support for the family of Mr. Jon Wells of the Kainai/Blood Tribe

The AFN supported the family of Mr. Jon Wells and the Kainai/Blood Tribe in calling for an inquiry into the death of Mr. Wells and those of other First Nations people who died during police encounters.

63/2024, Call for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths

The AFN carried out political and communications activities in 2024-25 to highlight systemic racism in policing. Efforts included a press conference at the 2024 Special Chiefs Assembly, political outreach, and calls for an independent national inquiry as part of 2025 federal election advocacy.

64/2024, First Nations Labour Market Information

The AFN identified existing First Nations Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) agreement holders who are currently participating in the Indigenous Labour Market Information (ILMI) Survey and Skills Inventory initiative. Appointments to the technical working group as outlined in the resolution are underway and will be comprised of ISET agreement holders who are actively participating in the ILMI Survey and Skills Inventory initiative. The AFN has drafted a pathway document for Labour Market Information (LMI) program renewal. This will assist the AFN and technical working group in the development of the business case. The technical working group will be supported by the AFN and the network of First Nations ISET agreement holders.

65/2024, First Nations Economic Reconciliation Framework

The AFN has contracted Indigenous Community Engagement (ICE) to conduct a literature review of economic reconciliation resources with the objective of forecasting how First Nations can best participate in the Natural Resource industries through economic reconciliation tools such as the Indigenous Loan Guarantee. This work, referred to as the Sparking Prosperity project, is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the 2025-26 fiscal year.



Resolutions Reporting



66/2024, Recognize The First Mile Connectivity Consortium as a Network of Professionals for the Support of First Nations Telecommunications

The AFN continued to meet with the First Mile Connectivity Consortium, as well as Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to discuss First Nations connectivity and opportunities to advance advocacy work.

67/2024, Right to the Improvement of Housing, a Social Condition

Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, portfolio holder for housing, sent a letter to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada pressing for more housing assistance to Manitoba First Nations. Federal officials were made aware of the resolution and the raised expectations of Chiefs that more federal First Nations housing investments will be made soon in response to the Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 Report and subsequent economic impact analyses.

68/2024, Call for Prioritization of Collaboration on the Second-Generation Cut-Off Rule

A proposal was submitted and approved under Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) Indigenous Advisory Process (IAP) to support the development of a First Nations-led discussion paper advancing alternatives to the second-generation cut-off. Engagements included participation in federal coordination meetings and national-level presentations, such as the 2025 AFN National Forum on the UN Declaration Act, to support dialogue and awareness. Coordination with federal departments was affected by the federal caretaker period, with follow-up expected once a new mandate is confirmed.

69/2024, Support for the Recognition of the As'in'wa'chî Ni'yaw Nation, also known as Kelly Lake Cree Nation

The AFN met with technical representatives from the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) to discuss the implementation of this resolution. Due to the prorogation of Parliament and the 2025 federal election, the AFN did not send correspondence to the outgoing Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. The AFN is currently preparing correspondence to the newly appointed Minister, calling for a fair and transparent process to support the recognition of the Kelly Lake Cree Nation.

70/2024, Full Involvement of First Nations in Additions to Reserve Re-Design

The AFN participated in technical discussions with Canada through a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The AFN urged Canada to collaborate with First Nations on a full redesign of the ATR Policy. Due to the prorogation of Parliament and the 2025 election, TAC discussions were temporarily paused. The AFN will resume its participation in the TAC, or its equivalent, with the new federal government.

71/2024, Rejecting the Accessible Canada Act and Advancing Distinct First Nations Accessibility Legislation

An AFN Shadow Report was submitted in February 2025 to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to address key barriers in First Nations that impede the human rights First Nations persons with disabilities rightful access to resources, services and supports to build accessible First Nations. Dialogues/surveys are ongoing with First Nations on a Distinct First Nations Accessibility Law.



Resolutions Reporting



72/2024, Treaty Right to Tax Exemption

The AFN sent a letter to the Minister of the National Revenue and the Saskatchewan Premier to advocate for the fulfillment of the tax exemption promises made under Treaties. The AFN will continue to seek opportunities to meet with the Canada Revenue Agency to discuss the resolution.

73/2024, Treaty Annuities Value

The AFN sent a letter to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) in support of First Nations Treaty rights, and advocate to Canada that they must negotiate meaningfully with First Nations on Treaty settlements and annuities. Additionally, the AFN continues to seek opportunities to meet with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to discuss furthering this resolution. Subject to funding, the AFN will draft a proposal for an encompassing economic study to be done on the value of Treaty annuities.

74/2024, Expanding NIHB Coverage to Include Allied Health Services

A formal letter has been drafted to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to communicate the resolution and its significance. Also, building alliances with allied health professionals is ongoing. AFN requested letters of support for the resolution from the Canadian Chiropractor Association, Canadian Physiotherapy Association, and other national allied associations to add weight to the letter to the minister and strengthen AFN's advocacy efforts. These efforts also included a resolution from 2023 related to advocating for including NIHB coverage for naturopathic medicine (97-2023, NIHB Coverage for Naturopathic Medicine).

75/2024, NIHB Medical Transportation (MT) Policy Discrimination to First Nations

AFN has drafted a letter to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and will raise this resolution at the next NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee meeting.

76/2024, Support for Greater Investment into the Reclamation of Childbirth

The AFN continues to partner with the National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM) in advocating for investments in Indigenous-led, community-based midwifery education pathways in First Nations and continue to support opportunities for community-based midwifery education. The AFN will continue to work with NCIM in the mobilization of an Indigenous midwifery-led health human resource strategy and increase advocacy to ensure that midwives are recognized as essential primary health care providers in federal health jurisdictions.

77/2024, Developing a National First Nations Tuberculosis Strategy

The AFN hosted a national meeting of clinicians and lived experience voices from First Nations organizations working in northern communities with high rates of tuberculosis. The meeting was supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Next steps include developing a draft strategy based on findings from the meeting report, a validation process, and endorsement at a future Assembly.



Resolutions Reporting



78-2024, Enhanced Emergency Service Management and Naloxone Access to Address First Nations Dying at Higher Rates

First Nation communities continue to face disproportionately high rates of preventable deaths due to inadequate emergency response and limited access to naloxone. The AFN is preparing a letter to the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), stressing the urgency of this issue and demanding immediate policy reform, as well as sustainable funding for culturally safe emergency care.

79-2024, Call for Sustainable and Predictable Funding in First Nations Health Services and Emergency Response Services

Emergency events activate the need for safe evacuations, emergency management and coordination, and recovery plans once members return home. The scope and spread of these events necessitate stress-free and uncomplicated access to financial resources to provide immediate and medium-term support for community members. AFN staff will work with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to identify ways to best address these interests.

80-2024, Call for National Cultural Safety and Humility Standard

The AFN is collaborating with the Health Standards Organization as part of the Technical Committee for the development of this national Standard. AFN will advocate for sustainable funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) once the Standard is fully developed and ready for implementation in 2027.

81-2024, Addressing Trauma from Indian Residential Schools, Day Schools, MMIWG2S+ and Burial Sites

The AFN has submitted a proposal to the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to continue work on the Indian Residential School Residential Support Program (IRS RHSP). Although the IRS RHSP was intended to support survivors of Indian Residential Schools, workers within the program have also reported that they support trauma related Indian Day Schools, MMIWG2S+, and rediscovered burial sites. This proposal will continue the work of the IRS RHSP Continuation Report, determining how a permanent and enhanced version of this program can be attained.

82-2024, Support for the Criminalization of Forced and Coerced Sterilization

The AFN and AFN Women's Council carried out substantive advocacy in 2024-25 on Bill S-250 (Act to Amend the Criminal Code) to ensure the criminalization of forced and coerced sterilization. Bill S-250 failed to proceed due to the prorogation of Parliament and the 2025 election. The AFN will continue to advocate for legislation consistent with our mandates once a new government is formed.

83-2024, Ensure Full Implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy First Nations Chapter

The AFN consistently advocated to the Government of Canada and Department of Justice officials for long-term and sufficient resources to support the implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) and the AFN First Nations Justice Strategy, which will be released in June 2025. To inform evaluation and implementation of the IJS, the AFN held a two-day Think Tank on Data with Statistics Canada, Justice Canada, and Correctional Service Canada. There is an interest in hosting the future Think Tanks on Data to further support the implementation and monitoring of the IJS.



Resolutions Reporting



84/2024, Support the Special Interlocutor's Indigenous-Led Reparations Framework

The AFN participated in the Final Gathering on Unmarked Burials and release of the Special Interlocutor's final report, Sites of Truth, Sites of Conscience, in October 2024. The AFN will be seeking a formal response to the Report by the Government of Canada in 2025, including a commitment to implement all 42 obligations outlined in the report.

85/2024, Support Bill C-413 to Provide Protection Against Anti-Indigenous Hate Speech and Residential School Denialism

The AFN advocated in support Bill C-415, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (promotion of hatred against Indigenous Peoples), in 2024. If passed, the bill would have criminalized Residential School denialism.

86/2024, Support for Gender Inclusive Advocacy to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples

The AFN participated at the Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial meeting on the Status of Women on July 23, 2024, and the Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial Roundtable on MMIWG2S+ on January 29-30, 2025. These meetings provided the opportunity to advocate on priorities related to the Calls for Justice and the status of women, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse people. The AFN will continue to advocate for resources and funding to support work to address the issue of Missing and Murdered First Nations Men and Boys.

87/2024, Ensuring Fair and Equitable Inclusion of the Northwest Territories in the Child Welfare Compensation and Long-Term Reform Final Settlement Agreement; and

88/2024, Implementing the Chiefs' Direction to End Canada's Discrimination in First Nations Child and Family Services; and

89/2024, Renewing Negotiations Toward Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle; and

90/2024, Safeguarding First Nations Children and Holding Canada Accountable for its Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Legal Obligations:

As directed by AFN Resolutions passed at the October and December Special Chiefs Assemblies, the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) has been mandated to take the lead on negotiations on the long-term reform of the FNCFS Program. The Social Development sector has been supporting the NCCC with the development of a workplan and budget with submission to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The AFN has been working with the NCCC on the development of a collaboration agreement to ensure that the AFN and NCCC are able to effectively work in collaboration to end the discrimination in the FNCFS Program and ensure it does not recur. Additionally, advocacy efforts are ongoing to ensure the Government of Canada returns to the negotiation table and recognizes and addresses the impacts of the child welfare system on First Nations children and families in the Northwest Territories (NWT). These efforts focus on securing fair inclusion of the Dene Nation and NWT First Nations in negotiations related to the Long-Term Reform (LTR) Agreement and any future class actions involving First Nations' child and family services programs.



Resolutions Reporting



91/2024, First Nations indicators of Poverty and Wellness

Throughout 2024, the AFN worked with the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to explore potential next steps and partnerships to advance work on the First Nations indicators of poverty and wellness. The AFN has developed an infographic on the First Nations Indicators of Poverty and Wellness to support in sharing information and building understanding of a First Nations' concept of poverty and wellness. The AFN is engaging the TWGSD to develop a framework for a pilot of the indicators that reflects regional priorities. The AFN has also made internal connections to draw linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals and explore opportunities to collaborate with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC).

92/2024, Renewed Capacity-Building Funding Commitment for An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis children, youth and families

The AFN drafted a letter to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) calling on the renewal of capacity-building funding by April 1, 2025. The AFN also leveraged bi-weekly meetings with ISC to continuously advocate for the renewal of this funding and for ISC to ensure transparency with First Nations regarding its efforts and progress to the end.

93/2024, Extending the Age of Eligibility for Jordan's Principle from the Age of Majority to 30 Years of Age

Throughout 2024/25, the AFN participated in technical discussions through two advisory committees, the Jordan's Principle Action Table and the Jordan's Principle Operations Committee. Additionally, the AFN participated in various meetings and conferences with many regions on draft Jordan's Principle policy recommendations, which includes extending the age of eligibility for post majority supports and services.

94/2024, Ensuring Transparency, Fair Representation, and Accountability in the Settlement Implementation Committee

The AFN has drafted Terms of Reference for the Settlement Implementation Committee (SIC) to support the implementation of the Advisory Sub-Committee and will include a protocol for appointing diverse individuals to the SIC and to the Advisory Sub-Committee.

95/2024, First Nations Leadership in Impact Assessment

On December 20, 2024, a letter was sent to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) supporting the request from a coalition of First Nations in Treaty 6 territory to designate the Pathways Alliance carbon capture and storage project as a designated project under federal impact assessment requirements. The AFN has also secured funding to support the creation of a Community of Practice to build on existing First Nations-led Assessment Toolkits.



Resolutions Reporting



96/2024, Advancing First Nations-Led Marine Conservation and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

In collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the AFN supported the implementation of recommendations from the AFN Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Report, including discussions on creating a federal, cross-departmental committee aligned with Measure 42 of Canada's UNDA Action Plan. This work was temporarily paused due to the prorogation of Parliament and the federal election. The AFN is also developing a Marine IPCA Toolkit and will seek input from First Nations in the next fiscal year.

97/2024, Reaffirming Support for the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA)

The Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) updated its Terms of Reference to include the AFN National Climate Strategy and prepared its 2024 Annual Report for submission to the National Chief and Prime Minister. The JCCA has invited the National Chief and Prime Minister to host a discussion on the report's recommendations and continues to support Regional Leads in implementing the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCLA).

98/2024, Solidarity with Palestine and Palestinian Self-Determination

Correspondence to the former Prime Minister was delayed due to the dissolution of Parliament and the 2025 federal election. The draft letter has been updated to reflect the newly appointed Prime Minister. The AFN will send the letter reaffirming support for Palestinian statehood, the right to self-determination, and the implementation of sanctions consistent with the UN Declaration.

99/2024, Pardon for Steve Donziger

AFN has drafted a letter to the Chevron Board of Directors urging them to comply with an Ecuadorian Court order to pay \$9.5 billion awarded to the Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador.

100/2024, Support for Increased First Nations Language Funding

The AFN is developing a political action plan by preparing an independent review of the Indigenous Languages Act (ILA) to advocate for increased funding. The AFN continues to represent the AFN as part of the Joint Implementation Steering Committee to inform criteria for the selection of an independent reviewer. The selection of a reviewer is scheduled for October 2025. Although the parliamentary review of the ILA was originally initiated in 2024, due to prorogation it must now be reinitiated and restarted once parliament reconvenes.

101/2024, Alignment of National Strategies enabling Community-Driven, Nation-Based Planning and Self-Determination

The AFN met with the AFN Quebec and Labrador Office and the First Nations Information Governance Centre to discuss this resolution. The AFN continues to advocate for increased community planning through increases to the Indian Government Support programs.



Resolutions Reporting



102/2024, Call for Canada to Fulfil UN Declaration Obligations in Relation to Proposed Carbon Capture and Storage Projects

The AFN has begun research and background work on regulatory oversight of carbon capture and storage projects to support First Nations advocacy efforts on this issue.

103/2024, Call for permanent all-season roads in the territories of Windigo First Nations Council

The AFN met with the Windigo Tribal Council on how best to approach resolution implementation. Windigo provided AFN with a presentation on their work and advocacy to date. The AFN recommended implementing strategic communication to broaden awareness of the need for winter road networks. The AFN will also draft (post-election) a letter to relevant Ministers to advocate for the investments required to build a winter road network for Windigo First Nations and to support winter road systems needed in other areas across Canada, with reference to the relevant section of the Closing the Infrastructure Gap costing report. Windigo Tribal Council will provide a presentation at an upcoming Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure to broaden awareness and appeal for advocacy and support.

Financial Statements



Financial statements of National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2025

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive Committee of National Indian Brotherhood

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("Canadian GAAS"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, in the Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the Annual Report prior to the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in this auditor's report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations

Year ended March 31, 2025

	Schedules	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue			
Indigenous Services Canada	A	38,584,845	39,741,262
Environment and Climate Change Canada	B	4,255,187	2,557,217
Justice Canada	B	2,523,827	188,282
Employment and Social Development Canada	B	1,300,193	1,291,926
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	B	1,147,706	1,349,459
Canadian Heritage	B	948,207	811,566
Natural Resources Canada	B	857,122	—
Women and Gender Equality Canada	B	641,885	2,682,261
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	B	580,679	253,324
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	B	332,375	123,261
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	B	317,389	—
Health Canada	B	232,388	105,929
Parks Canada	B	190,415	18,989
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	B	162,773	275,131
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	B	161,069	189,618
University of Ottawa	B	158,578	47,786
Veteran Affairs Canada	B	144,960	142,827
Canada Water Agency	B	139,200	—
Infrastructure Canada	B	112,750	—
Transport Canada	B	95,039	129,000
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation	B	49,169	—
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	B	39,701	85,299
Social Science and Humanities Research Council	B	36,000	—
Law Foundation of Ontario	B	1,681	—
Public Safety Canada	B	—	1,489,619
Interest revenue	B	1,953,335	2,230,221
Registration fees	B	1,762,094	1,327,325
Miscellaneous revenue	B	1,065,188	559,173
Trade show fees	B	476,350	328,081
		58,270,105	55,927,556
Expenses			
Advertising, promotion and publications		625,496	579,787
Amortization of capital assets		304,561	199,095
Insurance		52,382	49,625
Loss on disposal of capital assets		—	119,339
Miscellaneous		24,771	76,477
Office expenses		2,860,542	1,175,726
Professional fees		6,904,706	8,495,203
Regional service delivery		6,245,841	8,224,903
Rent		1,508,477	1,753,965
Salaries and benefits		20,949,790	21,737,606
Travel and meetings		15,859,685	12,459,327
	A and B	55,336,251	54,871,053
Excess of revenue over expenses		2,933,854	1,056,503

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements

National Indian Brotherhood
Statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash		53,430,082	32,143,128
Grants and contributions receivable	4	2,843,653	8,869,710
Other accounts receivable	6	600,559	2,637,131
Sales tax recoverable		1,859,534	739,431
Prepaid expenses		879,312	790,735
		59,613,140	45,180,135
Asset held in trust	3	18,459	17,600
Prepaid expenses		149,187	14,891
Capital assets	5	3,912,562	4,153,993
		63,693,348	49,366,619
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		10,417,073	8,876,227
Government remittances payable		355,500	621,427
Deferred revenue		3,001,479	40,791
Deferred contributions	7	34,197,787	26,006,985
Excess contributions	8	1,893,180	2,748,511
Current portion of deferred lease inducement	6	179,062	179,062
		50,044,081	38,473,003
Deferred lease inducement	6	2,468,894	2,647,956
Liability held in trust	3	18,459	17,600
		52,531,434	41,138,559
Contingencies and commitments	9 and 10		
Net assets			
Invested in capital assets		1,264,606	1,326,975
Internally restricted		3,750,631	3,852,948
Unrestricted		6,146,677	3,048,137
		11,161,914	8,228,060
		63,693,348	49,366,619

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak

National Indian Brotherhood
Statement of changes in net assets
Year ended March 31, 2025

	Notes	Invested in capital assets \$	Internally restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	2025 Total \$	2024 Total \$
Net assets, beginning of year		1,326,975	3,852,948	3,048,137	8,228,060	7,171,557
Excess of revenue over expenses		—	—	2,933,854	2,933,854	1,056,503
Internal transfer	17	—	(102,317)	102,317	—	—
Acquisition of capital assets		63,130	—	(63,130)	—	—
Amortization of capital assets		(304,561)	—	304,561	—	—
Amortization of inducements for leasehold improvements		179,062	—	(179,062)	—	—
Net assets, end of year		1,264,606	3,750,631	6,146,677	11,161,914	8,228,060

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

National Indian Brotherhood**Statement of cash flows**

Year ended March 31, 2025

	Notes	2025 \$	2024 \$
Operating activities			
Excess of revenue over expenses		2,933,854	1,056,503
Items not affecting cash			
Amortization of capital assets		304,561	199,095
Loss on disposal of capital assets		—	119,339
Amortization of lease inducement		(179,062)	577,923
		3,059,353	1,952,860
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items	11	18,290,731	(17,824,458)
		21,350,084	(15,871,598)
Investing activity			
Acquisition of capital assets		(63,130)	(4,124,030)
Net increase (decrease) in cash		21,286,954	(19,995,628)
Cash, beginning of year		32,143,128	52,138,756
Cash, end of year		53,430,082	32,143,128

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

1. Description of the organization

National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation") was incorporated under Part II of the *Canada Corporations Act* on September 29, 1970. In June 2014, the Corporation received a certificate of continuance under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. The Corporation has the following objectives:

- To assist and to work toward solutions for problems facing the First Nations people;
- To operate as a national body to both represent the First Nations people and to disseminate information to them;
- To study, in conjunction with First Nations representatives across Canada, the problems confronting First Nations and to make representations to the government and other organizations on their behalf;
- To assist in retaining the First Nations culture and values; and
- To act as the national spokesperson for First Nations throughout Canada.

The Corporation acts as the secretariat to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

The Corporation is a not-for-profit organization and, as such, is not subject to income taxes.

2. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

Basis of presentation

The financial statements do not include the accounts of those of the Future Generations Foundation (formerly the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund), which is controlled by the Corporation. Summarized financial statements of the Future Generations Foundation are disclosed in Note 12 of the financial statements.

Revenue recognition

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Contributions received toward the acquisition of capital assets are deferred and amortized to revenue on the same basis as the related depreciable capital assets are amortized.

Interest revenue is recognized in the period in which it is earned.

Financial instruments

Initial measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions are initially recognized at fair value when the Corporation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the Corporation is in the capacity of management, are initially recognized at cost.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Initial measurement (continued)

The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. The cost of financial instruments with repayment terms is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. The cost of financial instruments without repayment terms is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Corporation in the transaction.

Subsequent measurement

All financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost with the exception of cash and investments which are recorded at fair value.

The interest earned on investments, the unrealized gains and losses on listed stocks, and the realized gains and losses on the sale of investments are included in the investment income of the income statement.

Transaction costs

Transaction costs related to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are expensed as incurred. Transaction costs related to other financial instruments are added to the carrying value of the asset or netted against the carrying value of the liability and are then recognized over the expected life of the instrument using the effective interest method. Any premium or discount related to an instrument measured at amortized cost is amortized over the expected life of the item using the effective interest method and recognized in net earnings as interest income or expense.

Impairment

With respect to financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Corporation recognizes an impairment loss, if any, in net earnings when there are indicators of impairment and it determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows. When the extent of impairment of a previously written-down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed to net earnings in the period the reversal occurs.

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of contribution. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	3 years
Leasehold improvements	Term of lease

Lease inducement

The lease inducement is amortized over the term of the lease and account for as a reduction to the rent expense.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Excess contributions

The excess of revenue over expenses of some programs may require repayment and is recorded as a liability. When approval to retain the funds has been received, the excess is then recorded as revenue when expenditures are incurred or recorded back in deferred revenue.

Allocation of expenses

Allocation of administrative expenses between the programs or funding agencies is done in accordance with the stipulated basis of allocation and maximum amounts or percentages mentioned in each of the different contribution agreements entered into by the Corporation.

Use of estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and the accompanying notes. In the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect, within reasonable limits of materiality, all adjustments necessary to present fairly the results for the years presented. Assumptions are used in estimating the collectability of grants and contributions receivable, other accounts receivable, the useful life of capital assets, the amount of certain accrued liabilities and the allocation of expenses. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. Asset held in trust

The Corporation is holding in trust an education fund totaling \$18,459 (\$17,600 in 2024) for Kelly Morrisseau's children. These funds were donated by individuals and organizations.

4. Grants and contributions receivable

Grants and contributions receivable are as follows:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Indigenous Services Canada	1,274,890	6,030,133
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	317,390	—
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	332,375	193,837
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	306,216	557,243
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	191,740	285,636
Natural Resources Canada	110,000	100,000
Employment and Social Development Canada	107,002	107,002
Environment and Climate Change Canada	74,725	173,424
Justice Canada	50,000	—
Women and Gender Equality Canada	44,173	238,315
Transport Canada	35,142	35,142
Heritage Canada	—	449,253
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	—	477,551
Health Canada	—	150,000
Parks Canada	—	72,174
	2,843,653	8,869,710

5. Capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2025 Net book value	2024 Net book value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	236,769	236,769	—	17,616
Office equipment	382,019	353,242	28,777	5,079
Leasehold improvements	4,508,890	625,105	3,883,785	4,131,298
	5,127,678	1,215,116	3,912,562	4,153,993

Cost and accumulated amortization as at March 31, 2024 amount to \$5,064,548 and \$910,555, respectively.

6. Deferred lease inducement

In September 2022, the Corporation entered into a 180-month lease agreement expiring on August 31, 2038 for premises. The lease provided for leasehold improvement allowances and rent-free period. As at March 31, 2025, the unamortized balance is \$2,647,956 (\$2,827,018 in 2024).

As at March 31, 2025, an amount of \$nil (\$2,445,139 in 2024) in leasehold improvement allowances was receivable from the landlord and is included in Other receivables.

7. Deferred contributions

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	26,006,985	33,893,294
Contributions received during the year	61,203,942	43,596,447
Contributions recognized during the year	(53,013,140)	(51,482,756)
Balance, end of year	34,197,787	26,006,985

National Indian Brotherhood
Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2025

7. Deferred contributions (continued)

The balance, end of year is composed of the following:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Indigenous Services Canada	23,197,191	17,251,830
Employment and Social Development Canada	5,227,307	3,019,789
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	1,555,235	309,075
Environment and Climate Change Canada	1,304,645	1,946,598
Canadian Heritage	931,199	176,423
Justice Canada	780,943	1,304,771
Parks Canada	282,770	73,185
Health Canada	267,599	264,558
Natural Resources Canada	242,878	—
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation	150,831	—
Women and Gender Equality Canada	98,319	836,027
Veteran Affairs Canada	79,915	224,875
Infrastructure Canada	43,992	—
Transport Canada	34,963	—
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	—	261,853
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The	—	161,069
Public Safety Canada	—	87,954
University of Ottawa	—	61,778
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	—	27,200
	34,197,787	26,006,985

8. Excess contributions

Excess contributions are as follows:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Canadian Heritage	711,416	711,416
Indigenous Services Canada	488,626	1,471,219
Status of Women Canada	195,142	195,142
Public Safety Canada	194,838	106,884
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	188,025	85,570
Parks Canada	70,240	132,414
Justice Canada	17,722	—
Health Canada	14,571	—
Fisheries and Ocean Canada	12,600	12,600
Women and Gender Equality Canada	—	33,266
	1,893,180	2,748,511

9. Contingencies

The Corporation receives funding from various government agencies based on specific program needs and budgets and allocates certain expenses to the various programs. In many cases, the funding agency has the right to review the accounting records to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their programs. At this time, no estimate of the requirements, if any, to reimburse the agencies can be made. Management of the Corporation believes that its allocations of expenses are fair and appropriate in the circumstances.

Adjustments to the financial statements as a result of these reviews, if any, will be recorded in the period in which they become known. From time to time, the Corporation is involved in claims in the normal course of business. Management assesses such claims and where considered likely to result in material exposure and, where the amount of the claim is quantifiable, provisions loss are made based on management's assessment of the likely outcome. The Corporation does not provide for claims that are considered unlikely to result in significant loss, claims for which the outcome is not determinable or claims where the amount of the loss cannot be reasonably estimated. Any settlements or awards under such claims are provided when reasonably determinable.

10. Commitments

The Corporation is committed to future minimum lease payments under operating leases for office space and equipment maturing in 2038, for which minimum annual payments for each year are as follows:

	\$
2026	1,588,165
2027	1,588,318
2028	1,588,318
2029	1,637,143
2030	1,603,402
2031 and thereafter	13,478,961
	<u>21,484,307</u>

11. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Grants and contributions receivable	6,026,057	(6,622,935)
Other accounts receivable	2,036,572	(112,046)
Sales tax recoverable	(1,120,103)	965,147
Prepaid expenses	(222,873)	377,702
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,540,846	(1,474,652)
Government remittances payable	(265,927)	87,411
Deferred revenue	2,960,688	(53,103)
Deferred contributions	8,190,802	(7,886,309)
Excess contributions	(855,331)	(3,105,673)
	<u>18,290,731</u>	<u>(17,824,458)</u>

12. Controlled entity

The Corporation appoints the trustees of the Future Generations Foundation (formerly National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund), a registered charity under paragraph 149(l)(f) of the *Income Tax Act*, to administer the Youth Healing Fund, the Research Sponsor Fund, the Heroes of Our Time Fund, the Education Fund, the Métis Fund, and the Education Legacy Fund. The Future Generations Foundation is deemed a non-profit organization under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), and accordingly is not subject to income taxes.

The summarized financial statements of the Future Generations Foundation are as follows:

Summarized statement of financial position

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets	275,383,588	266,618,607
Liabilities	3,074,095	3,374,904
Fund balances	272,309,493	263,243,703
	275,383,588	266,618,607

Summarized statement of operations

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	28,793,668	39,112,361
Expenses	19,727,878	17,105,712
Excess of revenue over expenses	9,065,790	22,006,649

Summarized statement of cash flows

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Operating activities	(3,478,319)	(4,316,760)
Investing activities	4,209,553	4,505,001
Net increase in cash	731,234	188,241
Cash, beginning of year	1,633,184	1,444,943
Cash, end of year	2,364,418	1,633,184

As at March 31, 2025, the balance due from the Future Generations Foundation was \$nil (\$7,729 in 2024).

For the year ended March 31, 2025, the Corporation received \$nil (nil in 2024) from the Future Generations Foundation for services relating to the administration and management of the Future Generations Foundation and \$15,162 for the rental of office space (\$15,162 in 2024). In addition, the Future Generations Foundation continued to share office space with the Corporation in Akwesasne at an annual cost of \$19,382.

The transactions with the Future Generations Foundation have been recorded at their exchange amount which is the amount in accordance with the agreements signed between the parties.

13. Executive salaries

By virtue of an annual general assembly resolution (62/98), the National Chief of the AFN receives a salary which is adjusted annually in connection with the consumer price index. Similarly, by virtue of a Confederacy of Nations resolution and an Executive Committee resolution, each Regional Chief is allocated a director's fee. Management and unelected officials are compensated within average industry remuneration levels for their positions.

14. Pension plan

The Corporation contributes to a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. Contributions are up to 8% of an employee's salary. The employer's contributions for the year were \$1,211,137 (\$1,202,379 in 2024).

15. Credit facility

The Corporation has a banking agreement which establishes a demand credit facility for general business purposes up to a maximum of \$2,500,000, bearing interest at prime plus 1%, renewable annually. The credit facility is secured by a general security agreement representing a first share over all of the Corporation's assets. The balance outstanding at year-end is \$nil (nil in 2024).

16. Financial instruments

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Corporation's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Corporation is not exposed to market risks.

Credit risk

The risk arises from the potential that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss.

The Corporation's various receivables represent credit provided for the Corporation's programs. The credit is provided mainly to the federal government and accordingly presents minimal credit risk to the Corporation.

The maximum credit exposure of the Corporation is represented by the fair value of various amounts receivable as presented in the statement of financial position.

17. Capital management

The Corporation considers its capital to consist of net assets. The Corporation's overall objective is to effectively use resources to maximize the ability to achieve its vision, fund tangible capital assets, future projects and ongoing operations. The Corporation manages net assets by establishing internally restricted funds and appropriating amounts to the restricted funds for anticipated future projects, contingencies and other capital requirements. These allocations are disclosed in the statement of changes in net assets.

The Corporation is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

17. Capital management (continued)

Internally restricted net assets

Net assets are internally restricted for specific operating purposes as authorized by the Board of Directors from time to time. Internally restricted balances are supported by a clear statement of purpose, and an anticipated time frame for the accumulation and draw down of the balance at the time established.

The purpose of any internally restricted balance is consistent with the objectives of the Corporation's strategic initiatives and operating plans, as well as identified risks to the achievement of these objectives.

During the year ended March 31, 2025, an amount of \$102,317 (\$1,947,052 in 2024) was transferred from internally restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets to fund the new office move.

18. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

	Basic Organizational Capacity \$	Core-Like \$	Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS program \$	New Fiscal Relationship Co-development \$	Additions to Reserve Redesign \$	Building Knowledge and Awareness \$	Comprehensive Claims Justice \$	First Nations without Federal Recognition \$	Specific Claims \$
Revenue									
Contributions/grants	5,545,726	1,399,667	2,433,073	—	235,229	769,107	—	38,043	857,910
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	—	—	262,625	—	—	28,262	49,318	189,376
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5,545,726	1,399,667	2,433,073	262,625	235,229	769,107	28,262	87,361	1,047,286
Expenses									
Advertising, promotion and publications	114,592	—	2,647	6,718	3,258	—	86	3,044	8,849
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	—	—	22,981	—	—	3,804	134,616
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	8,912	—	—	598	299	—	—	266	734
Miscellaneous	1,567	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	218,264	—	545,361	8,646	12,247	—	1,299	1,636	34,953
Professional fees	260,378	—	178,437	3,898	49,251	769,107	—	1,143	162,650
Regional service delivery	50,000	1,332,212	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	294,215	—	—	22,201	11,009	—	—	9,910	27,455
Salaries and benefits	3,599,648	42,788	32,649	219,758	102,594	—	—	67,558	358,219
Travel and meetings	998,150	24,667	1,673,979	806	33,590	—	26,877	—	319,810
	5,545,726	1,399,667	2,433,073	262,625	235,229	769,107	28,262	87,361	1,047,286
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)

	2SLGBTQIA+	MMIWG2S	SC-EMAP - Steering Committee Meeting	Social Program Reform Assisted Living	Costing Income Assistance Research	Jordan's Principle	National Forum on Income Assistance	FNIYES - Summer Student
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	—	1,000,000	8,080	—	496,100	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	242,492	—	—	25,211	—	398,061	753,878	40,555
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	242,492	1,000,000	8,080	25,211	496,100	398,061	753,878	40,555
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	6,044	18,320	—	—	—	5,630	4,705	922
Allocation of administrative expenses	47,440	100,000	1,046	745	42,835	36,187	68,248	3,004
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	626	1,507	—	330	—	470	79	65
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	92	—	—
Office expenses	38,530	35,440	—	—	—	10,604	9,296	529
Professional fees	49,280	29,670	—	—	453,265	142,080	19,057	—
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	22,670	56,681	—	—	—	17,581	15,243	2,535
Salaries and benefits	38,403	606,053	—	24,136	—	176,043	159,179	33,500
Travel and meetings	39,499	152,329	7,034	—	—	9,374	478,071	—
	242,492	1,000,000	8,080	25,211	496,100	398,061	753,878	40,555
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)

	Bill C-92	FN Child & Family Services Program	Consultation Committee on Child Welfare	FNCFS Regional/Virtual Engagements	Economic Development	Housing and Infrastructure	Housing and Infrastructure	Languages and Learning Workplan
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	—	338,980	—	581,633	1,191,243	—	2,490,667	2,007,380
Contributions/grants - prior years	1,352,687	600,570	489,868	—	—	1,124,039	2,477,363	799,434
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1,352,687	939,550	489,868	581,633	1,191,243	1,124,039	4,968,030	2,806,814
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	6,860	7,267	8,597	—	18,815	—	37,532	31,820
Allocation of administrative expenses	84,694	85,414	44,530	—	119,738	101,242	215,325	164,278
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	601	581	669	—	1,545	—	3,245	2,495
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	600	5,764
Office expenses	7,466	12,321	8,743	8,389	54,313	6,411	83,259	75,830
Professional fees	133,027	481,159	81,073	270,194	48,858	107,785	1,162,987	655,213
Regional service delivery	797,614	—	—	—	—	318,488	1,447,527	—
Rent	22,334	21,655	24,688	—	57,939	—	120,097	92,746
Salaries and benefits	294,085	278,173	119,268	—	758,123	—	1,222,707	1,013,505
Travel and meetings	6,006	52,980	202,300	303,050	131,912	590,113	674,751	765,163
	1,352,687	939,550	489,868	581,633	1,191,243	1,124,039	4,968,030	2,806,814
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)

	Support of First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda \$	Climate Action \$	MOU \$	UNDRIIP \$	CDW Communication Tools \$	AFN 3rd National Climate Gathering \$	H-CPD Com Prog- Mental IRS \$	Health Research & Engagement Continuum of Care \$	H-Sup H Benefits- NIHB \$	Health Block Contribution Funding \$
Revenue										
Contributions/grants	93,975	2,300,000	3,000,000	—	—	85,000	84,134	—	—	1,797,362
Contributions/grants - prior years	62,040	171,603	—	161,304	81,958	—	245,420	65,799	432,997	561,226
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	156,015	2,471,603	3,000,000	161,304	81,958	85,000	329,554	65,799	432,997	2,358,588
Expenses										
Advertising, promotion and publications	1,387	17,546	50,911	5,730	397	—	357	2,122	3,407	39,213
Allocation of administrative expenses	14,183	213,343	—	18,557	7,451	7,800	29,959	—	39,363	210,721
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,514
Insurance	114	1,566	4,304	586	37	—	21	201	288	2,759
Miscellaneous	—	—	655	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	3,566	88,015	59,873	14,564	1,040	1,800	5,851	18,011	6,071	48,221
Professional fees	2,500	171,392	413,368	69,404	44,492	—	31,699	23,616	43,935	188,529
Regional service delivery	—	1,100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	4,326	44,761	135,450	21,757	1,342	—	—	7,375	10,757	103,340
Salaries and benefits	118,514	250,470	2,092,164	4,805	9,934	—	103,635	12,987	130,244	1,200,656
Travel and meetings	11,425	584,510	243,275	25,901	17,265	75,400	158,032	1,487	198,932	556,635
	156,015	2,471,603	3,000,000	161,304	81,958	85,000	329,554	65,799	432,997	2,358,588
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2025

Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)

	Health E-Health \$	Health COVID Taskforce \$	Health Data Sharing \$	Health Planning and Governance GBA+ \$	Health TB Prevention \$	Health HIV/AIDS Prevention \$	Environmental Public Health HHR \$	Emergency Management \$	2025 Total \$	2024 Total \$
Revenue										
Contributions/grants	—	—	96,566	—	—	—	—	—	26,849,875	24,490,262
Contributions/grants - prior years	43,197	94,686	—	72,405	22,178	24,250	207,134	655,034	11,734,970	15,251,000
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	43,197	94,686	96,566	72,405	22,178	24,250	207,134	655,034	38,584,845	39,741,262
Expenses										
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	787	—	421	—	258	1,651	11,068	420,961	396,705
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,830	71,012	1,907,346	1,347,073
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,514	12,543
Insurance	—	65	—	—	—	21	126	931	34,041	37,375
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,678	5,189
Office expenses	—	22,696	—	48	—	249	4,322	14,806	1,462,670	818,376
Professional fees	28,500	—	24,025	71,975	—	—	2,500	6,150	6,180,597	6,398,399
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,045,841	5,463,561
Rent	—	2,420	—	—	—	1,417	4,798	34,823	1,191,525	875,439
Salaries and benefits	—	66,323	—	—	—	21,758	98,344	422,321	13,678,544	16,012,608
Travel and meetings	14,697	2,395	72,541	(39)	22,178	547	76,563	93,923	8,646,128	8,373,535
	43,197	94,686	96,566	72,405	22,178	24,250	207,134	655,034	38,584,845	39,740,803
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	459

Schedule B – Other funding agencies

	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation - First Nations Control: Housing \$	Canada Water Agency - Freshwater Stewardship \$	Department of Fisheries and Oceans - AAROM \$	Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Oceans Management Contribution Program \$	Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas \$	Employment and Social Development Canada - Early Learning & Child Care Transformation Initiative \$	Employment and Social Development Canada - Labour Market Information \$	Employment and Social Development Canada - Homelessness \$	Employment and Social Development Canada - 2030 Agenda & Sustainable Development \$
Revenue									
Contributions/grants	12,500	139,200	755,289	179,204	213,213	250,857	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	27,201	—	—	—	—	213,339	91,916	463,012	281,069
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	39,701	139,200	755,289	179,204	213,213	464,196	91,916	463,012	281,069
Expenses									
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	—	11,176	—	779	5,828	—	4,768	3,070
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	27,840	43,576	23,089	18,253	42,200	9,848	47,231	30,115
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	—	976	253	81	491	—	490	261
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	—	—	22,042	4,200	1,932	9,104	108	8,771	8,662
Professional fees	27,201	10,500	52,514	33,000	20,920	80,274	11,752	—	2,500
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	—	36,286	11,962	18,960	18,390	—	18,169	9,750
Salaries and benefits	12,500	100,860	447,518	54,700	145,648	239,029	730	197,671	167,547
Travel and meetings	—	—	141,201	52,000	6,640	68,880	69,478	185,912	59,164
	39,701	139,200	755,289	179,204	213,213	464,196	91,916	463,012	281,069
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Schedule B – Other funding agencies (continued)

	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Transforming Species at Risk Conservation \$	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Transforming Species at Risk Conservation \$	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Participation in the National Steering Committee \$	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Conserving Nature Working Group \$	Environment and Climate Change Canada - AFN Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group \$	Environment and Climate Change Canada - First Nations Nature Table \$	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \$	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Right to Healthy Environment \$
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	137,220	—	—	58,741	302,826	1,494,311	70,000	310,598
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	208,909	187,755	—	11,857	1,472,970	—	—
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	137,220	208,909	187,755	58,741	314,683	2,967,281	70,000	310,598
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	880	1,152	1,836	146	646	12,120	305	1,161
Allocation of administrative expenses	10,635	11,992	17,069	5,152	28,608	269,752	6,364	10,730
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	76	109	151	10	48	1,062	27	91
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	948	4,780	1,575	4,401	772	55,726	160	11,358
Professional fees	65,547	48,884	2,500	—	2,500	126,695	5,211	1,975
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	1,200,000	—	—
Rent	4,200	2,645	5,671	401	1,833	39,426	936	3,450
Salaries and benefits	54,934	—	111,108	13,220	73,714	589,234	26,713	100,271
Travel and meetings	—	139,347	47,845	35,411	206,562	673,266	30,284	181,562
	137,220	208,909	187,755	58,741	314,683	2,967,281	70,000	310,598
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Schedule B – Other funding agencies (continued)

	George Cedric Metcalf Foundation	Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation - Indigenous- Led Conservation	Health Canada - Engagement Stream - First Nations Scoping Paper: Cannabis Act	Health Canada - Chemicals Management Plan	Canadian Heritage - Full Implementation of Indigenous Languages Act	Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada - Reaching Home	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada - Policy and Guidance	Infrastructure Canada - Veteran's Homelessness Program	Justice Canada - UNDA National Action Plan	Justice Canada - FN Justice Strategy Framework	Justice Canada - AFN Capacity and Restorative Justice
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue											
Contributions/grants	49,169	—	—	82,401	948,207	317,389	332,375	112,750	1,500,000	—	500,000
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	162,773	149,987	—	—	—	—	—	—	523,827	—
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	49,169	162,773	149,987	82,401	948,207	317,389	332,375	112,750	1,500,000	523,827	500,000
Expenses											
Advertising, promotion and publications	234	5,062	1,268	1,494	8,107	666	2,014	721	9,807	—	6,694
Allocation of administrative expenses	4,470	11,012	—	7,491	96,803	37,224	30,215	5,011	125,520	60,221	50,000
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	14	183	137	112	748	4	166	43	756	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	106	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	118	11,720	1,823	967	50,465	31	18,475	369	26,170	3,998	31,482
Professional fees	2,500	55,632	28,411	2,500	142,598	31,913	34,759	37,207	58,649	35,300	57,268
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	545	4,300	5,226	4,246	27,060	144	6,235	1,679	28,737	—	—
Salaries and benefits	34,626	62,033	85,516	59,779	344,575	51,621	153,939	24,759	588,115	291,718	83,256
Travel and meetings	6,662	12,831	27,606	5,812	277,745	195,786	86,572	42,961	662,246	132,590	271,300
	49,169	162,773	149,987	82,401	948,207	317,389	332,375	112,750	1,500,000	523,827	500,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Schedule B – Other funding agencies (continued)

	The Law Foundation Of Ontario - Indigenous Laws Education And Research	Natural Resources Canada - Indigenous Engagement Strategy	Natural Resources Canada - National Engagement on Natural Resources	Nuclear Waste Management Organization - Foster Positive Dialogue	University of Ottawa - First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study	Parks Canada - General Class Contributions	Parks Canada - National Marine Conservation Area Regulations	Parks Canada - Collaboration in Conservation	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council - Special Initiatives Fund
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue									
Contributions/grants	1,681	100,000	757,122	198,833	96,800	—	—	117,230	36,000
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	—	—	381,846	61,778	71,677	1,508	—	—
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1,681	100,000	757,122	580,679	158,578	71,677	1,508	117,230	36,000
Expenses									
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	—	554	11,190	1,049	—	—	817	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	11,500	20,454	16,431	14,000	6,516	—	13,040	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	—	—	761	87	—	20	44	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	263	—	41,652	18,287	598	—	—	663	—
Professional fees	—	—	86,560	39,500	2,500	—	—	32,877	—
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	—	—	12,324	15,773	—	723	1,697	—
Salaries and benefits	—	88,500	11,500	203,161	118,856	—	765	61,675	36,000
Travel and meetings	1,418	—	596,373	279,025	5,715	65,161	—	6,417	—
	1,681	100,000	757,122	580,679	158,578	71,677	1,508	117,230	36,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Schedule B – Other funding agencies (continued)

	Transport Canada - Oceans Protection Program \$	Veteran Affairs Canada - Veteran & Family WellBeing \$	The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation - First Nations' Stewardship of Land & Water in Canada \$	Women and Gender Equality Canada Women's Program \$	Other \$	2025 Total \$	2024 Total \$
Revenue							
Contributions/grants	95,039	—	—	—	—	9,168,955	6,035,274
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	144,960	161,069	641,885	—	5,259,338	5,706,220
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	1,953,335	1,953,335	2,230,221
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	1,762,094	1,762,094	1,327,325
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	1,065,188	1,065,188	559,173
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	476,350	476,350	328,081
	95,039	144,960	161,069	641,885	5,256,967	19,685,260	16,186,294
Expenses							
Advertising, promotion and publications	621	245	2,885	7,052	100,188	204,535	183,082
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	4,329	12,000	257,579	(3,293,614)	(1,907,344)	(1,347,073)
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	296,047	296,047	186,552
Insurance	64	—	275	6,936	3,865	18,341	12,250
Loss on disposal of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	119,339
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	15,958	16,093	71,288
Office expenses	1,857	383	7,970	39,483	1,006,559	1,397,872	357,350
Professional fees	—	—	31,495	72,752	(520,285)	724,109	2,096,804
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	1,200,000	2,761,342
Rent	2,339	—	10,084	57,515	(33,754)	316,952	878,526
Salaries and benefits	40,539	—	—	5,046	2,589,870	7,271,246	5,724,998
Travel and meetings	49,619	140,003	96,360	195,522	2,158,279	7,213,555	4,085,792
	95,039	144,960	161,069	641,885	2,323,113	16,751,406	15,130,250
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	2,933,854	2,933,854	1,056,044