



DIALOGUE SESSION

REFORMING CANADA'S ADDITIONS-TO-RESERVE POLICY



MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023, 1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M. ADT • HALIFAX CONVENTION CENTRE, ROOM 201

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

First Nations have a profound connection to the land, as it is central to all things. Canadian laws, policies, and programs must do more to support the return of First Nations lands, territories, and resources.

The Government of Canada has relied upon its Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy as authority for First Nations to add lands to their reserves. In his own words, however, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Mark Miller admits that the (ATR) process is “largely broken, glacial in its pace, and a terrible way to get land back.”

In 2022, the Government of Canada publicly acknowledged that “additions to reserve are an important part of advancing reconciliation” and committed to critical reform driven by First Nations. This Dialogue Session is intended to provide the first of many important opportunities for First Nations to participate in a critical conversation regarding what actions CIRNAC must take; what immediate reforms must be advanced; and how the federal policy must support First Nations goals and objectives to access and return lands to their communities.

SPEAKERS:

Regional Chief Paul Prosper, Portfolio
Aaron Asselstine, Director for AFN Lands Sector (facilitator)
Kathleen Lickers, External Senior Advisor to AFN
Natalie Dube, AFN Lands Sector



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
1:00 p.m.	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine
1:05 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Aaron Asselstine, Director of Lands (Facilitator)
1:10 p.m.	Opening Remarks (Portfolio Holder)	Paul Prosper, AFN Regional Chief, NS
1:20 p.m.	ATR Reform: Setting the Context for Change A high-level overview of recent efforts to reform the ATR policy (2012, 2018) with the goal of situating First Nations participants in the current reform context. This discussion will begin identifying First Nations priorities for the return of land, which will inform AFN advocacy on ATR reform. Open Discussion	Kathleen Lickers, External Advisor Aaron Asselstine, Director of Lands Natalie Dube, Policy Analyst
2:25 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine
2:30 pm	Meeting Adjourns	