

Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 21/2025

TITLE: National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering

SUBJECT: Women's Commission

MOVED BY: Chief Shelley Bear, Ochapowace First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Roberta Francis, Nekaneet First Nation, SK

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 22(1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
- B. First Nations hold Mothers, Grandmothers, Matriarchs, and those in motherly roles with the highest regard as life-givers, protectors of culture, and keepers of traditional, spiritual, and medicinal knowledge.
- C. Despite their vital leadership roles and intergenerational wisdom, there is currently no national gathering dedicated specifically to First Nations Mothers, Grandmothers, Matriarchs, and those in motherly roles to come together to share teachings and knowledge.
- D. A National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering would create a sacred and supportive space for knowledge sharing, language revitalization, ceremony, cultural empowerment, and the exchange of best practices from diverse First Nations across Turtle Island.
- E. Such a gathering would also strengthen community-based healing, mentorship, and support systems for First Nations families and would reaffirm the cultural authority of Women, Grandmothers, Matriarchs, and those in motherly roles in Nation rebuilding and governance.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on Canada to fund and support the inaugural National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering in 2025, to be planned and hosted by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Women's Commission in collaboration with Assembly of First Nations (AFN) advisory Councils, First Nations leadership, Elders, matriarchs, and relevant organizations.
2. Direct the AFN to support and promote this gathering through national advocacy and to call on Canada to commit funding sources to ensure that the national gathering is broad and inclusive.

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Cindy Woodhouse

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