



Assembly of First Nations

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 9-11, 2024 • Montréal, Québec

DIALOGUE SESSIONS



First Nations Health Legislation / Pathway to Advance Accessibility for First Nations

Monday July 8, 2024 10:30am-12noon

Room 512CD, Palais des congrès

Session Description:

The purpose of this dialogue session is to provide updates on the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) work toward the proposed First Nations Accessibility and Disability Inclusion Law and Distinctions Based Health Legislation.

The federal government passed the *Accessible Canada Act* (ACA) in 2019 with the aim of building a barrier-free Canada for persons with disabilities by 2040. First Nations are currently exempt from the ACA until December 12, 2026, in order to conduct engagements with rights-holders and First Nations Persons with Disabilities (FNPWD). In light of shortcomings of the ACA, First Nations have proposed the development of a Distinct First Nations Accessibility Law (DFNAL). This session will provide an update of the AFN's work over the past two years to inform DFNAL through engagements with First Nations and research on the state of accessibility and disability inclusion in the Nations, including context for the draft resolution on misdiagnosis. One option for a DFNAL would be to incorporate disability inclusion as a section within First Nations Health Legislation.

First Nations health legislation holds the potential to accelerate First Nations models of health, based on ancestral concepts of wellness and in alignment with Inherent and Treaty rights to health. This session will provide a snapshot of regional insights on health legislation, harmonize visions on improved health, identify risks, and suggest a framework to support legislative proposals to support First Nations health.

Speakers:

- Melanie Morningstar; A/Director, AFN Health Sector
- Chief James Hobart, Spuzzum First Nation, BC
- Chief Rachel Manitowabi, Wiikwemkoong First Nation, ON
- Shannahn McInnis, Senior Researcher, AccessEDI
- Dr. Josee Lavoie



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
10:30 am	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper
10:35 am	Welcome and Introductions	
10:40 am	Remarks from Chief Manitowabi and Chief Hobart	Chief James Hobart and Chief Rachel Manitowabi
10:45 am	Distinct First Nations Accessibility and Disability Inclusion Legislation	Shannahn McInnis
10:50 am	First Nations Health Legislation	Dr. Josee Lavoie
11:30 am	Discussion	Moderator
11:55 am	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper