



Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly 2024

December 3-5, 2024 • Rogers Centre Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Dialogue Session

25 Years After the Marshall Decision

Monday, December 2, 2024 • 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM • Room 205, Rogers Centre

Session Description:

In September 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) delivered the historic Marshall Decision, which upheld the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1760/1761 between the Crown and Wolastoqey, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomukati Nations. 2024 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Marshall Decision and this session will explore its significance in reaffirming Indigenous governance rights.

This Dialogue Session is intended to be a layered discussion as follows: 1) Jurisdictional Interplay, which recognizes the co-existence of Indigenous, federal and provincial governance structures in fisheries managers; 2) Challenges in Implementation, which addresses gaps in legislation that hinder the practical exercise of Indigenous governance rights in treaty-protected fisheries; and 3) A Path Forward, which focuses on actionable, near and medium-term steps that can be taken to align legislative frameworks with Inherent and treaty rights.

This session will provide an opportunity to inform the First Nations-in-Assembly on key issues affecting First Nations connected to the Marshall Decision.

SPEAKERS LIST:

- Knowledge Keeper Eldon Bernard
- Gina Doxtator, AFN Consultant, Moderator
- Regional Chief Andrea Paul, AFN Nova Scotia
- Chief Darlene Bernard, Lennox Island First Nation
- Government of Canada Representative, TBD



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
10:30 AM	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Eldon Bernard
10:35 AM	Welcome and Introductions	Gina Doxtator
10:40 AM	First Nations Lived Experiences	Regional Chief Andrea Paul Chief Darlene Bernard
11:00 AM	Government of Canada – Implementation of the Treaties and of the Marshall Decision	Annette Gibbons, DFO Deputy Minister
11:15 AM	Questions Period	All Panelists
11:55 pm	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Eldon Bernard