



Assembly of First Nations

# ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## DIALOGUE SESSIONS



## Additions to Reserve (ATR) Redesign: Advancing First Nations Priorities Policy

### Policy Reform One Pager: Restitution of First Nation Lands

To start the discussion, here is a list of considerations that Assembly of First Nations (AFN) technicians have generated in response to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) May 2024 study, *We Belong to the Land: The Restitution of Land to Indigenous Nations*.

In full coordination with First Nations, the Government of Canada could take steps to:

1. Ensure that the Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy is compatible with and complimentary to Specific Claims settlement agreements.
2. Identify and remove all barriers in the federal ATR policy (such as eliminating the narrow policy categories, addressing delays hindering economic development) and unlock the potential of First Nations to create Urban Reserves.
3. Enhance First Nations' capacity and work to align the ATR policy with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
4. Explore broader reforms with the First Nations Lands Advisory Board which may include amendments to the Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management such as the development of a First Nations-led land title registry.
5. Create an ATR Land Institute to support First Nations and explore alternative approaches to land restitution outside of existing policies and processes through a National Land Restitution Centre.
6. Fundamentally reform federal tax structures to unlock Indigenous Land Trusts and tax-free mechanisms for First Nations holding land, including fee simple title.
7. Federal tax incentives to facilitate the purchase of fee simple lands from willing sellers.
8. Fully examine and support expanding access to capital/economic development opportunities.