
Assembly of First Nations

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

55, rue Metcalfe, Suite 1600
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 6,7,8, 2022, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 24/2022

TITLE: AFN's Commitment to Transparency and Proactive Disclosure of Procurement Records

SUBJECT: Governance and Finance

MOVED BY: Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Council Chairperson Khelsilem, Squamish Nation, BC

DECISION Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was created for First Nations; for advancing the aspirations of First Nations and to remain subordinate in strength, power, and resources to the First Nations jurisdiction for which it is established to serve.
- B. There is a need for greater transparency and accountability to the Chiefs for which the AFN was created.
- C. The 2005 AFN Renewal Commission report recommendations for change address:
 - i. place of First Nation values, principles, traditional knowledge and practices within the AFN;
 - ii. relationship-building with other First Nation organizations by way of written protocols or agreements;
 - iii. reform of AFN structures and procedures;
 - iv. communications plans and strategies that work;
 - v. equal participation in Confederation (p.8).
- D. An on-going goal of the current sitting National Chief is working toward evolutionary and positive change at the Assembly of First Nations embedded in accountability and transparency.

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ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD, NATIONAL CHIEF

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- E. In the AFN Financial Policies and Procedures Manual (2021), Section B (Expense Management), policy, *Expense Authorization and Delegation*, stipulates the following:
- i. Defines the delegation and the assignment authorities and provides accountability with respect to financial authorization and the authority to bind the AFN to legal obligations (p.27).
 - ii. No employee or officer of the NIB/AFN shall exercise any element of Financial Signing Authority in connection with any payment from which s/he can personally benefit or in respect of which s/he is in conflict of interest (p.27).
 - iii. Any purchase greater than \$200,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee, based on a recommendation from the CEO (p.29).
 - iv. Contracts that materially affect the direction or the finances of the AFN requires the approval of the Executive Committee. This includes but is not restricted to any contract including amendments with the same vendor with an accumulated value greater than \$100,000 (p.30).
 - v. The CEO is required to report all approved additional expenditures to the Executive Committee so that they may be informed of major purchases or potential negative financial impacts to the AFN (p.31).
- F. In the AFN Financial Policies and Procedures Manual (2021), Section B (Expense Management), policy, *Contracts*, stipulates the following:
- i. For contracts greater than \$50,000.00 (tax excluded), a competitive bidding process is required through a Request for Proposal (p.54)
 - ii. For contracts greater than \$100,000.00, an RFP is required where the Branch will make a recommendation for approval by the Executive Committee (p.54).
- G. The AFN Financial Policies outlined above do not include procedures that facilitate disclosure of information about procurement and awarded contracts to the First Nations-in-Assembly on a timely and routine basis.
- H. The AFN's existing structure must evolve in order to gain the respect and confidence of the First Nations across the country and be known not only as the representative of First Nations in national and international forums but an advocate and supporter of nation-building.

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- I. At the AFN's 43rd Annual General Assembly (July 2022), the Chiefs, both on the assembly floor and in the Resolutions they passed, expressed that the healing path forward includes transparency and accountability.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and AFN Executive Committee to issue and share a confidential quarterly report with the First Nations-in-Assembly, itemizing all awarded contracts and:
 - a. Process (i.e., RFP).
 - b. Sector and/or person requesting the contract.
 - c. Amount and term of the contract.
2. Direct the AFN to create and implement a Summary of Awarded Contracts document, itemized by year and quarter, for greater monitoring of procurement activities.
3. Direct the AFN and AFN Executive to complete an annual analysis of procurement to ensure that the principles of accountability, transparency and fairness are reflected in procurement decisions.
4. Direct the AFN and Executive Committee to add to the current procedures of the policy, *Contracts*, the preceding new activities.

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