



BUREAU DE LA CHEFFE NATIONALE / OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF

NCO QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Recoveries of our Children

As we recover our children from the former Institutions of assimilation and genocide, we must ensure that all Survivors and intergenerational trauma Survivors and those yet to be recovered, are always acknowledged and honoured as we walk the #HealingPathForward.

On September 30, National Chief Archibald participated in the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc with Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir. In October, she toured the former site of St. Joseph's Mission with Chief Willie Sellars. In the coming years, National Chief hopes to visit other sites across Canada to pay her respects to the thousands of children who didn't make it home.

The recovery of our children is far from over. The National Chief's Office and the Executive Committee will continue to support and stand with all First Nations as they work to bring their little ones home.

- The Government of Canada must acknowledge all Indian Residential Institution Survivors and intergenerational survivors and respond to First Nations seeking assistance in finding our lost children and support our mourning First Nations communities.
- All levels of government must work with urgency, and together with First Nations, to rebuild, recover and heal. We need to see real action that will allow the opportunity for healing from the trauma that our people have experienced for generations.

Unmarked Graves have been found in the following communities (as of March 1, 2022):

**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation
(215 children)**

**Muskowekwan First Nation
(35 unmarked graves)**

**Cowessess First Nation
(751 unmarked graves)**

**Penelakut Island
(more than 160 unmarked graves)**

**Williams Lake First Nation
(93 potential burials)**

**Keeseekoose First Nation
(54 potential graves)**

**Kapawe'no First Nation
(169 unmarked graves)**



AFN Executive Committee Meet in BC: BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee, Dr. Gwen Point, Elder Eldon Bernard, Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, National Chief RoseAnne Archibald, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Vice-Chief Aly Bear, New Brunswick Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, PEI Chief Darlene Bernard and NWT Regional Chief Gerald Antoine

Members of the AFN Executive Committee met for three days in the traditional territory of the Squamish Nations at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, BC March 1-3. The Executive Committee made up of Regional Chiefs from across the country addressed a variety of regional and national priorities. Regional Chiefs unable to attend in person participated virtually.

Highlighted Meetings:

- Arnold Lampreau, Chief of Shackan Indian Band
- Paul (PJ) Prosper, Regional Chief of Nova Scotia/ Newfoundland
- Gerald Antoine, Regional Chief of Northwest Territories
- Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief of Yukon
- Lee Ketchemonia, Chief of Keeseekoose First Nation
- Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage of Canada
- Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance, Deputy Prime Minister
- Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
- Stephanie Scott, Executive Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Catherine Tait, CEO of CBC
- Minister Patti Hadju, Indigenous Services Canada
- Minister Marc Miller, Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada
- Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada

For a full meeting list see attached or visit www.afn.ca/national-chief/



HERstorical: National Chief met with Governor General Mary Simon alongside Ohén:ton Ì:iente ne Ratitsénhaienhs (Grand Chief) Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer and Grand Chief Mandy Gull- Masty. Each woman is first in their elected and appointed roles. @indigwomenrise

Increasing Women in Leadership

In November, Minister Marci Ien, Women and Gender Equality and Youth, reaffirmed funding to establish a National Caucus of Elected Women Leaders. The purpose of the project is to increase women in leadership across Turtle Island.

\$40-Billion Child Welfare Settlement

The AFN has reached Agreement in Principle (AIP) to settle the largest class action lawsuit in Canadian history. Manitoba Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse led the negotiations on behalf the AFN Executive Committee.

Under the agreement Canada will provide \$20-billion to compensate First Nations who were unnecessarily removed from their home between 1992 and 2022 because of Canada’s discriminatory funding of First Nation child welfare agencies. The second \$20-billion will help reform the First Nation Child and Family Services Program. *More info and a dedicated page will be available soon.*



National Chief Archibald, Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, Chief Derrick Henderson and Minister Marc Miller and other First Nations leaders and government officials gathered at Lower Fort Garry in August to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the first of Canada’s numbered treaties.



Raising the Flag

For the first time in history, the federal government lowered the Canadian flags on federal buildings and atop the peace tower for Indigenous Veterans Day. Further they have agreed to lower Canadian flags to half-mast annually on Sept. 30 for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

During the controversy around the Canadian flag, National Chief Archibald issued a statement calling on the government to raise the “every child matters” flag. The government subsequently agreed to find a place within the parliamentary precinct for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation orange flag.

Emergency Management Funding

Along with BC AFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee and many BC Chiefs, National Chief advocated for increased funding for the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS). This resulted in an additional \$4.4-million being allocated to FNESS. The next step is to ensure long-term, sustainable funding for FNESS and other First Nation processes that will respond to crises caused by climate change.

National Chief Archibald attended a Flyover (see photo) to view the flood aftermath in the Nicola Valley with stops in Cook’s Ferry Indian Band and Nicomen Indian Band.

Recognitions

In March, National Chief RoseAnne Archibald will be recognized as **2022 Top 25 Women of Influence** alongside *Her Excellency Mary Simon, Cindy Blackstock, Sheila (Siila) Watt-Cloutier, Tania Koenig-Gauchier & Shirley McLean*. In December National Chief was also acknowledged as **Toronto Star’s Vaccine Heroes of 2021**: 20 people who took on the biggest job of the pandemic and helped Ontario get its shots. Most recently, National Chief was voted to the **Maclean’s Power List**: “50 Canadians who are forging paths, leading the debate and shaping how we think and live.”



From l to r: Chief Marcel Shackelly, Chief Lee Spahan, Chief Stuart Jackson, National Chief Archibald, Minister Murry Rankin, Minister Mike Farnworth, and Chief Arnold Lampreau

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