

Assembly of First Nations

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

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Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
Téléphone: (613) 241-6789 Télécopieur: (613) 241-5808
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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 66/2025

TITLE: Affirming the Role of First Nations in Shaping Canadian Immigration Policy and Entry Decisions

SUBJECT: Truth and Reconciliation

Moved BY: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Eric Tootoosis, Proxy, Poundmaker First Nation, SK

DECISION: Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The Creator placed the First Nations on Turtle Island with Inherent rights, responsibilities, and jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and Nations, which predate the formation of the Canadian state.
- B. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, including First Nations.
- C. The Royal Proclamation of 1763, historical treaties, and international instruments such as the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), which Canada has adopted and committed to implement, affirm the Inherent rights of First Nations to self-determination and to participate in decisions that affect them.
- D. Canada's immigration policies have historically excluded First Nations voices and perspectives, despite the direct impact immigration has on the rights and interests as well as the political, economic, social, and cultural fabric of First Nations territories.
- E. Many newcomers to Canada are not supported to be educated on the nation-to-nation relationships between Canada and First Nations, leading to misunderstandings, perpetuation of colonial narratives, and marginalization of First Nations rights and interests.
- F. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #93 and #94 call upon the federal government to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of Residential Schools. It also calls upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of

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Citizenship with language to affirm and uphold First Nations Treaties and agreements made with the Crown.

- G. On June 21, 2021, Canada passed C-8, *An Act to amend the Citizenship Act (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's call to action number 94)* fulfilling TRC Call to Action #94.
- H. Call to Action #93 remains outstanding. The Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has not indicated when it intends to release the updated Citizenship Guide and accompanying materials.
- I. First Nations have a right to be informed and consulted about who is permitted to enter and reside in their territories and to help shape the values, processes, and priorities that guide immigration policy.

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

- 1. Affirm that First Nations, as self-determining Nations with Inherent rights and jurisdiction, must have a meaningful role in shaping immigration policies and decisions regarding who is granted entry into Canada.
- 2. Call on the Government of Canada to formally recognize First Nations' jurisdiction and interest in immigration matters as part of a nation-to-nation relationship and reconciliation efforts.
- 3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to engage with First Nations and seek funding to develop a First Nations-led framework for participation in immigration policy, including consultation on immigration levels, settlement priorities, and an updated Citizenship Guide and materials to orient newcomers on Treaty obligations and First Nations Inherent rights.
- 4. Urge the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to establish a formal mechanism for ongoing consultation and cooperation with First Nations governments.
- 5. Instruct the AFN to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly on progress made toward these objectives at the next Assembly.

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