
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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Annual General Assembly
July 5, 6, 7, 2022, Vancouver, BC

Resolution no. 10/2022

TITLE: Post-Pandemic Support for National First Nations Assets Needs

SUBJECT: Infrastructure

MOVED BY: Chief R. Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, ON

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
 - ii. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- B. The Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) 2021 Healing Path Forward states:
- i. Ensure that First Nations have access to sufficient infrastructure stimulus funds for shovel-ready projects in First Nations communities as part of a post-pandemic recovery plan for First Nations.
- C. The federal government has repeatedly committed to closing the infrastructure gap experienced by First Nations by 2030, as outlined in the 2020 Speech from the Throne and the Minister of Indigenous Services subsequent mandate letters.
- D. The Minister of Indigenous Services' 2021 mandate letter states:

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- i. Immediate priority is to enhance opportunities for economic recovery and to continue delivering distinctions-based supports in response to COVID-19 as needed. To achieve equity, you will continue to collaborate with Indigenous partners—by working together to close socio-economic gaps and improve access to high-quality services.
- E. As the world economy attempts to rebound from the negative impacts of the pandemic, First Nations across Canada face new socioeconomic challenges and risk a widening of their current infrastructure gap as they encounter higher construction costs, supply-chain issues, and aging infrastructure services that require immediate upgrading and sustainable operations and maintenance funding to account for growth in their population.
- F. The AFN Infrastructure Sector has completed the National First Nations Assets Needs Study, which defined the 20-year investment needs across the 634 First Nations for asset renewal, upgrades, expansion and new builds to improve their community infrastructure.
- G. The First Nations Assets Needs Study also analyzed and provided the quantifiable investment needs to support the safe, effective, and sustainable operation and maintenance of First Nations federally funded infrastructure assets.
- H. The limitations outlined in the First Nations Asset Needs Study indicate that inadequate Indigenous Services Canada data and insufficient First Nation infrastructure asset management records warrant further costing exercises related to climate change adaptation and improved levels of service standards, as well as to quantify the remaining infrastructure gaps in First Nation core and essential infrastructure services.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to ensure the federal government includes First Nations immediate infrastructure needs as part of Canada's post-pandemic recovery plan and have these infrastructure investments incorporated into its 2023 federal budget.
2. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to work in full partnership with First Nations to ensure that First Nations perspectives and priorities are included in Canada's post-pandemic recovery plan.
3. Direct the AFN to ensure the federal government commits to making long-term and sustainable funding commitments to invest in First Nations infrastructure investment needs as defined by the National First Nations

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Assets Needs Study, including the use of the Study's findings to inform federal investments in growth, upgrades, and level of service standards improvements, and adequate operations and maintenance funding for all applicable First Nation assets.

4. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to improve capacity building programs available to First Nations for infrastructure planning and program delivery to enable First Nations to be stewards in the effective management of their own current and future infrastructure assets.
5. Direct the AFN to work with the Chiefs' Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, AFN Technicians, and appropriate technical bodies to assist First Nations in predicting and quantifying the costs of climate change adaptation for applicable First Nation assets that ensures an improved level of service standard to maintain infrastructure resilience.

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