
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 9, 10, 11, 2024, Montreal, QC

Resolution no. 06/2024

TITLE: Support for Increased Attendance of Members at AFN Assemblies

SUBJECT: Governance

MOVED BY: Linda Moen, Proxy, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, YK

SECONDED BY: Alex Oakley, Proxy, Teslin Tlingit Council, YK

DECISION Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that supports and advances the collective interests of its membership, approximately 600+ First Nations across Canada.
- B. The AFN typically hosts two Assemblies a year (Summer and Winter) where mandates and directives for the organization are established through resolutions directed and supported by the First Nations-in-Assembly.
- C. Considering the importance and implications of the decisions achieved at the AFN Assemblies, the scheduling and accessibility of AFN Assemblies should be responsive to the needs and interests of its membership to support high attendance rates.
- D. The AFN Summer Assembly is held during one of the hottest months in the year (July) and with the ongoing impacts of climate change, as seen with increasing floods and fires, the period of May to August requires First Nations leadership to be physically available to their families and communities, affecting their ability to attend the AFN Summer Assembly.
- E. To support and increase membership attendance at the Assemblies and support the needs of First Nations it is recommended that the AFN Summer Assembly be rescheduled to be held in the Spring during the month of either March or April to be an AFN Spring Assembly.
- F. Leadership travel from rural northern communities to anywhere in Canada to attend AFN Assemblies in-person, which is expensive and time consuming at a cost to their First Nations communities.
- G. There is a precedent to support membership to attend AFN Assemblies virtually.

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- H. To support the northern and rural First Nations Chiefs to attend the AFN Assemblies, it is recommended that there be virtual attendance options.
- I. To provide for an exception in the year that a National Chief is elected, require members to attend the Assembly to promote and support more meaningful engagements amongst the membership.
- J. The First Nations-in-Assembly have the Inherent authority to establish its own rules to govern the operations of AFN Assemblies.

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

- 1. Support the spirit and intent of this resolution and recognize that the recommendations may require Charter amendments.
- 2. Direct the AFN Executive to examine and provide recommendations at the December 2024 Special Chiefs Assembly to the First Nations-in-Assembly specifically addressing:
 - a. cost considerations for members to attend assemblies in person in election years, when the First Nations-in-Assembly are selecting their National Chief; and
 - b. any other considerations that the First Nations-in-Assembly may need to consider when making a decision to realize the objectives of this resolution.

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