



## ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS / ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF / BUREAU DE LA CHEFFE NATIONALE

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### Healing Path Forward Accord

The Healing Path Forward Accord is a renewed framework that will include political processes that will continue to advance national priorities while also respecting regional diversity and promoting First Nations regionally led processes. This Accord provides strategic direction and action toward evolutionary and positive change. There are three components to this framework, as outlined below:

#### 1. Equality and Equity for First Nations

The Accord would ensure equality and equity for First Nations so that they enjoy the same standards of living as non-Indigenous Canadians. Since its inception, the Assembly of First Nations has been an advocate for building safe and vibrant communities which include: clean drinking water, safe and sufficient housing, proper health programs and services, properly funded schools and education processes, policing and community safety, infrastructure, roads, water and sewer, electrification, proper community buildings and spaces, connectivity, food security, these are the basic building blocks of healthy communities. They are also basic human rights. Under this accord, we would accelerate our efforts and work smarter, faster, and better as partners. Ultimately, communities that have equality and equity are self-sufficient First Nations and self-determining First Nations.

#### 2. Establishing Political Processes

##### National Political Process: Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (PBM)

The National process will establish a table to address complex and longstanding issues. This process is an opportunity for AFN and Canada to take a strategic approach that results in concrete actions and tangible results at an accelerated pace. The Accord will support a number of political processes and ensure long-term and guaranteed investments. This table will be complemented by a number of sub-tables and distinct processes as outlined below.

##### National First Nations Economic Growth, Wealth Building and Prosperity Table

The Healing Path Forward means recognizing that health and resiliency are tied to prosperity and wealth building. The establishment of a National First Nations growth, wealth building and prosperity table will be a starting point towards greater understanding and cooperation between First Nations, the government of Canada and a platform to promote economic reconciliation and growth in First Nations communities.

##### Regional Political Processes:

We will have greater success if when we move toward a more regionally based approach and solutions. Regional offices require adequate funding in order to conduct their internal engagement and information sharing process on issues of a national importance.



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### **Internal Political Restructuring: Healthy Boundaries**

The AFN has been accused of being irrelevant, out of touch and needing to be dissolved. This criticism speaks to the need for political and administrative restructuring. Healthy boundaries need to be put in place between the political and administrative functions of the Assembly of First Nations. This work requires adequate funding to undertake a strategic restructuring process which would include strategic planning at all levels with the Chiefs, the Chiefs Committees, the Secretariat and the AFN Executive Committee. There is a need for a clear path, a healthy boundary that respects everyone's roles.

### **National Caucus of Elected of Women Leaders (NCEWL)**

Creating the NCEWL will allow us to make significant strides to improve the quality of life for First Nations women by providing advice and support through a Women Chief's lens to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality, Cabinet and the senior management of the federal public service on implementation of legislation, policies, and programs/services that are being created with regard to the safety, health, wellbeing, and empowerment and capacity building of First Nation women using a gender-based plus lens.

### **3. Implementing, Recognizing and Respecting our inherent and treaty rights**

The Healing Path Forward Accord expresses the political commitment between the Assembly of First Nations and the federal government of Canada to advance truth and reconciliation by implementing, recognizing and respecting our inherent and treaty rights including land, title, land rights and water rights. This will be achieved by reviving constitutional discussions that will lead to actionable amendments that will secure First Nations right to self-determination and implement First Nations jurisdiction.