

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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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 81/2025

TITLE: Advancing First Nations-Led Reporting, Standards, and Accountability in Health Systems

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Brian Hardlotte, Proxy, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Alvin Musqua Jr, Keesekoose First Nation, SK

DECISION: Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. Article 23 and Article 24(1) of the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) recognize the right of Indigenous Peoples to determine and administer their own health programs, services, and standards, and the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- B. First Nations hold an Inherent and Treaty-protected Right to Health, which includes jurisdiction to design, oversee, and govern complaint processes, standards, and accountability mechanisms within First Nations-led health systems.
- C. Existing provincial complaint pathways and medico-legal systems are widely experienced as unsafe, inaccessible, and re-traumatizing for First Nations patients and do not provide transparent, accessible, or culturally safe information about regulatory actions involving physicians serving First Nation communities.
- D. In 2023, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and Siksika Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding explicitly recognizing Siksika's Inherent jurisdiction in oversight of medical professionals, affirming that meaningful implementation of the Treaty Right to Health requires transparency, partnership, and First Nations-designed processes.
- E. Transparent reporting and First Nations-designed pathways are required to uphold patient safety, regulatory accountability, and the Treaty Right to Health within First Nations-led health systems.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 22nd day of January, 2026 in Ottawa, Ontario

Cindy Woodhouse

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon provincial and territorial regulators and the Canadian Medical Protective Association to work with First Nations to co-develop First Nations controlled reporting pathways that ensure communities receive clear, timely information about regulatory or medico-legal actions involving physicians serving First Nations-led health systems, in ways consistent with First Nations jurisdiction and the Treaty Right to Health.
2. Direct the AFN to call upon Canada and the provinces and territories to support the development of First Nations-led pathways for determining physician mobility practice standards, recognition processes, and governance structures that implement the Treaty Right to Health, without prescribing any specific institution or model, and enabling First Nations to create the structures they determine are appropriate.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 22nd day of January, 2026 in Ottawa, Ontario

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