



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

**Resolution no. 72/2025**

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Confronting Indigenous Identity Fraud and Safeguarding First Nations Rights</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Citizenship, Rights
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Chief Troy Knowlton, Piikani Nation, AB
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chief Dennis Pashe, Dakota Tipi First Nation, MB
<b>DECISION:</b>	Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
  - ii. Article 8(1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
  - iii. Article 8(1): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
    - a. Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
    - b. Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
    - c. Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
    - d. Any form of forced assimilation or integration; and
    - e. Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.
- B. First Nations have the right to determine their own identities and systems of membership in accordance with their customs and traditions.

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*Woodhouse*

- C. Individuals and groups across Canada are increasingly making fraudulent and illegitimate claims to First Nations' identities. These fraudulent claims undermine First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights.
- D. Fraudulent claims of First Nations identity divert limited program funding, benefits and services away from eligible citizens and undermine the integrity of federal, provincial and First Nations-administered programs.
- E. Inadequate verification systems and federal and provincial engagement with illegitimate groups amplifies the negative impacts of identity fraud on First Nations.
- F. The Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs affirm the Inherent and legitimate rights of Treaty First Nations and communities to define their citizenship and identity in accordance with historical, legal, and cultural continuity.

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

1. Affirm the Inherent and legitimate rights of First Nations to define their citizenships and identities in accordance with historical legal and cultural continuity.
2. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate at all levels of government to establish and enforce rigorous verification processes and to cease recognition or funding of entities whose Indigenous identity claims are disputed by established Indigenous governments.
3. Direct the AFN to seek resources to support advocacy by First Nations and their representative organizations and governments to expose and challenge fraudulent identity claims.
4. Direct the AFN to disseminate this resolution to all levels of government, educational institutions, and the public to raise awareness and promote accountability in the protection of First Nations' identity.
5. Support ongoing collaboration among Indigenous governments to uphold the integrity of First Nations' identities and ensure that reconciliation efforts are rooted in truth, respect, and accountability.
6. Denounce all forms of First Nation identity fraud, including false claims made by individuals or organizations for personal, academic, political, or financial gain.
7. Urge academic institutions, employers, and funding bodies to adopt transparent, community-validated criteria for assessing First Nations' identity in hiring, admissions, and grant-making processes.

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*Cindy Woodhouse*