

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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Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 82/2025

TITLE: The Alberta Indigenous Games

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Vernon Watchmaker, Kehewin Cree Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations, AB

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 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- ii. Article 31: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) calls include:

- i. Call to Action 88: We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the NAIG, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.
- ii. Call to Action 90: We call upon the federal government to ensure national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.
- iii. Call to Action 90(1): In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.

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- C. The Assembly of First Nations recognizes that the Alberta Indigenous Games (AIG) have, for more than 15 years, brought together thousands of First Nation youth from across Treaty 6, 7, and 8 territories, and beyond, to celebrate sport, culture, and identity through a sovereign First Nation-led initiative.
- D. The AIG create pathways for youth to participate in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) and World Indigenous Games, supporting high-performance development and cultural pride.
- E. The AIG have a proven record of economic and social impact, generating more than \$35 million (as of the 2025 AIG Games) in annual economic activity and contributing to reconciliation, youth empowerment, and intergenerational healing.
- F. Chiefs and Councils from Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Nations and beyond already provide support to youth and families participating in the AIG, demonstrating strong Nation-to-Nation unity and a shared commitment to cultural revitalization through sport.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to fully endorse and support the Alberta Indigenous Games (AIG) as a First Nations-led movement for youth empowerment, healing, and reconciliation.
2. Call on the relevant federal Ministers and departments to provide stable, adequate, and long-term funding to the AIG and its associated programs, including making any necessary adjustments to federal funding structures to ensure AIG is eligible for equitable support, in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #88 and #90.
3. The AFN commits to standing in solidarity with Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Nations and beyond in advancing the recognition of the AIG as a permanent, Treaty supported institution that uplifts youth, culture, and sport across all First Nations territories in Canada.

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