



Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly 2024

December 3-5, 2024 • Rogers Centre Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Dialogue Session

Advancing First Nations Roles in Water Protection: Canada Water Agency, Safe Drinking Water (Bill C-61), and Marine IPCA

Monday, December 2, 2024 • 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM • Room 205, Rogers Centre

Session Description:

This session will provide an update on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) progress in promoting First Nations leadership and involvement in water stewardship, protection, and conservation. Key areas of focus include the Canada Water Agency (CWA) and the modernization of the *Canada Water Act* (Resolution 53/2023), marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) (Resolution 41/2021), and Bill C-61, *First Nations Clean Water Act* (Resolution 43/2024).

Updates will be shared on each initiative, along with an introduction to a new resolution, DR 17/2024, *Advancing First Nations Marine Conservation and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas*. This resolution aims to further AFN's work to support First Nations on marine IPCAs and calls for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's accountability to its commitments.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss water stewardship and marine conservation, provide feedback to enhance AFN mandates and contribute to building First Nations' capacity in these essential areas.

SPEAKERS:

- Knowledge Keeper Gwendolyn Point
- Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, Newfoundland, Infrastructure Portfolio
- Wanli Ou, Special Advisor, AFN
- Julie Pellerin, AFN Senior Director, Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch
- Chris Rapson, In-House Legal Counsel, AFN
- Magena Warrior, Policy Analyst, AFN Housing and Infrastructure



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
3:00 PM	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Gwendolyn Point
3:05 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell
3:20 PM	The Canada Water Agency and the Canada Water Act	Wanli Ou
3:35 PM	Bill C-61, First Nations Clean Water Act	Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell Julie Pellerin Chris Rapson
3:55 PM	Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (Marine IPCAs)	Magenta Warrior
4:10 PM	Open Discussion	
4:25 PM	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Gwendolyn Point