



Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

National Justice Forum on Reform of Justice Systems

Montreal, QC (Hybrid) | May 28-29, 2025 | 9:00am-5:00pm ET

Call For Speakers

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to announce this request for speakers for the AFN's National Justice Forum on Reform of Justice Systems.

In January 2021, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada was mandated to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) to address systemic discrimination and overrepresentation of Indigenous people across the justice system. The IJS would be informed by Indigenous-led engagement undertaken by communities and organizations as well as Justice Canada-led engagement to develop a culturally appropriate strategy including concrete recommendations for action.

In February 2024, the AFN released *Assembly of First Nations Recommendations for a First Nations Justice Strategy* (Recommendations Paper) informed by various sources and forums since 2020, including the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, AFN National Forums on policing and justice, AFN Virtual Justice Speaker Series, the 2023 Ten Years Since Spirit Matters report, and IJS engagement. This Recommendations Paper includes two main parts: (1) Reform of the criminal justice system (CJS), and (2) revitalization of First Nations traditional laws.

Part 1 of the Recommendations Report, the reform of the current criminal justice system, contained six considerations on the ineffectiveness of current reform measures and the need for new legislative developments, the systemic racism and retraumatizing experiences that permeate the CJS, underfunded and understaffed First Nations services, and the distinct differences of goals between the CJS and First Nations. Part 1 also included 14 recommendations on CJS reform focused on addressing systemic racism, ensuring the CJS is less adversarial, and more responsive and supportive to the needs of First Nations people.

The primary objective of the event is to provide First Nations an opportunity to discuss the reform of justice systems that will inform the implementation of the First Nations component of the Indigenous Justice Strategy. The forum will showcase community justice programs, Gladue programs, wrap-around supports, and healing lodges that are leading the way in reforming the justice system.

The AFN is inviting dynamic speakers to submit a proposal to speak as a keynote speaker, panelist, or provide a presentation.

The deadline to submit an application is **Friday, March 28, 2025**.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Please submit your application to: sbean@afn.ca

For inquiries, please contact:

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