

Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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

Resolution no. 69/2025

TITLE: **Asserting our Inherent Right to Hunt in our Traditional Territories**

SUBJECT: Inherent Rights, Hunting

MOVED BY: Chief Lisa Young, Bloodvein River First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Sheldon Kent, Black River First Nation, MB

DECISION: Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. All First Nations, including the members of Bloodvein River First Nation, have occupied, used, and cared for our traditional territories since time immemorial, maintaining a sacred relationship with the lands, waters, and all living beings within them.
- B. Moose harvesting is an integral part of many First Nations' cultural identities, spiritual practices, food sovereignty and security, and traditional economies, and is essential to the intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge and the wellbeing of our people.
- C. First Nations have Inherent rights to govern and manage our traditional territories, including, for Nations such as Bloodvein River First Nation, the right to determine, regulate, and protect sustainable moose harvesting practices consistent with our own laws, customs, and stewardship principles.
- D. Article 26 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) recognizes the right of First Nations to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that we have traditionally owned or occupied.
- E. Article 32 of the UN Declaration further affirms that States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with First Nations to obtain our Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before approving any project affecting our lands, territories, or resources, particularly in connection with resource development, land use, and conservation initiatives.
- F. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of First Nations in Canada, including rights to traditional hunting and harvesting.
- G. Many First Nations, including Bloodvein River First Nation, continue to face threats to our traditional territories and wildlife from industrial development, overharvesting by non-Indigenous hunters, habitat degradation, and government policies that fail to respect First Nations governance and FPIC.

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Cindy Woodhouse

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

1. Reaffirm First Nations' Inherent and constitutionally protected rights to govern and protect our traditional territories, in accordance with our own laws, values, and stewardship responsibilities.
2. Assert the rights of the Bloodvein River First Nations, and other First Nations with a traditional connection to moose harvesting, to determine and regulate moose harvesting within our traditional territories as an integral aspect of our cultural survival and way of life.
3. Call upon the Government of Canada, and all provinces and territories to recognize and respect First Nations' jurisdiction and laws governing moose harvesting and wildlife stewardship within our traditional territories.
4. Demand that all levels of government, including Crown agencies and proponents who undertake any activity, development, or enforce policy within our traditional territories, obtain our Free, Prior and Informed Consent, in accordance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) and the Honour of the Crown.
5. Call upon all First Nations, national and regional First Nations organizations, and allies to support our assertion of rights and protection of our traditional territories, and to advocate collectively for full implementation of the UN Declaration across all levels of government.
6. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to engage in dialogue with Canada, the provinces and the territories, to advocate for co-management or recognition agreements that affirm First Nations' governance over wildlife and land use within our traditional territories.
7. Commit to continuing First Nations stewardship responsibilities and ensuring the sustainable protection of moose populations and habitat for future generations.

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