



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
Special Chiefs Assembly

December 5-7, 2023

Shaw Centre – Ottawa, Ontario

Ottawa is located on the unceded unsurrendered Territory of the Algonquin People.

ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS
Assemblée extraordinaire des Chefs

Du 5 au 7 décembre 2023 - Centre Shaw - Ottawa (Ontario)

Ottawa est située sur le territoire non cédé et non abandonné du peuple algonquin.



Parliamentary Monitoring

History

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) conducts parliamentary monitoring and supports advocacy efforts in Parliament. In cases where a bill is anticipated to have a significant effect on First Nations, the AFN engages in advocacy where it is provided mandates. In many cases, the AFN will intervene to ensure that First Nations rights are respected and that First Nations voices are heard. When required, the AFN will appear before House of Commons or Senate Committees to advance the Inherent, Aboriginal and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction of First Nations.

In June 2023, the bills listed below received Royal Assent:

- Bill C-13, *An Act for the Substantive Equality of Canada's Official Languages*. The AFN prepared a written submission on C-13 to ensure First Nations language rights are protected through requests to incorporate Indigenous languages as an official language in Canada.
- Bill S-5, *An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, to make related amendments to the Food and Drugs Act and to repeal the Perfluorooctane Sulfonate Virtual Elimination Act* to ensure First Nations' rights to a healthy environment are safeguarded.

AFN's current advocacy

AFN recently advocated on many topics, including food price inflation, improving graduation rates and successful outcomes for Indigenous students, briefings on Indigenous affairs, and Arctic governance and northern perspectives. Additionally, the AFN also participated in several studies on bills that have the potential to impact First Nations' rights.

Currently, the AFN is monitoring several priority bills in both the House of Commons and the Senate.

AFN'S RECENT SUBMISSIONS

Since Parliament resumed sitting in September 2023, the AFN has engaged with both the House of Commons and Senate Committees. The AFN supported leadership by submitting written briefs on the following topics:



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WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE	BILL / STUDY	VIEW
Pending	Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN)	C-53, Recognition of Certain Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan and Métis Self-Government Act	Link
Pending	Standing Committee on Industry and Technology (INDU)	C-27, Digital Charter Implementation Act, 2022	Link
Pending	Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (LCJC)	S-13, An Act to amend the Interpretation Act and to make related amendments to other Acts	Link
June 29, 2023	Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN)	Restitution of Land to First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Communities	Link

AFN'S RECENT APPEARANCES

The AFN Secretariat supported leadership on recent appearances to Committees to advocate on the following topics:

COMMITTEE APPEARANCES

DATE	COMMITTEE	BILL / STUDY	VIEW
November 28, 2023	Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN)	C-53, Recognition of Certain Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan and Métis Self-Government Act	Pending
November 6, 2023	Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs (SECD)	C-21, An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)	Link
November 1, 2023	Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (SOCI)	C-35, Canada Early Learning and Child Care Act	Link
October 26, 2023	Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (LCJC)	S-13, An Act to amend the Interpretation Act and to make related amendments to other Acts	Link
October 26, 2023	Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)	Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2024 Budget	Link

Next Steps

The AFN continues to support advocacy efforts through Parliament by supporting the distribution of information within the AFN Secretariat and regional offices. The AFN continues to monitor and support AFN participation in ongoing studies and bills of interest, to ensure that our leadership is prepared to advocate on issues mandated by First Nations-in-Assembly.