



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in
Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget 2023

October 2022

Summary of Required Federal Investments - Budget 2023 (\$ millions)

Investment Area	Program	Over 5 years (\$millions)
Infrastructure (ISC, ECCC, ISED)	Community Infrastructure	\$20,543
	Drinking Water and Wastewater	\$4,475
	Housing and Homelessness	*\$63,300
	Connectivity	\$650
	Green Infrastructure	\$10,250
	Education Facilities	\$6,910
	Health Facilities/eHealth	\$776
Education (ISC)	Kindergarten to Grade 12	\$4,682
	Post-Secondary	\$9,016
	Adult Education	\$767
First Nations Languages (ISC, DCH)	Language Revitalization in the classroom (K-12)	\$1,950
	Language Revitalization outside the classroom	\$2,920
Health (ISC, ESDC)	Mental Wellness	\$2,171
	Healthcare	\$745
	Accessibility	\$1,050
Economic Development (ISED, ESDC, NRCAN, AAFC)	Supporting First Nation Economies	\$5,183
	First Nations Labour Market Training and Skills	\$672
	Agriculture/Agri-food	\$100
Justice (ISC, CIRNAC, JC, PSC)	Reconciliation and Healing	\$2,624
	Implementation of MMIWG Calls for Justice	\$3,500
	Policing	\$3,600
	Justice Reform and Reclamation	\$1,350
Rights (CIRNAC, JC, DFO)	UNDRIPA National Action Plan	\$373
	Repeal of Inherent Right to Self-Government Policy	\$25
	Indigenous Fisheries Secretariat	\$333
Lands (CIRNAC)	Treaty Commissioner's Office	\$92
	First Nations Seeking Federal Recognition	\$1,300
	Lands Policy Reform	\$370
Governance (ISC, CIRNAC)	Governance Supports	\$3,500
	Emergency Services	\$39
	Citizenship	\$302
Environment (ECCC, ISC, DFO, ESDC)	First Nations Climate and Conservation Leadership	\$2,809
	Environmental Health	\$1,850
	Water Stewardship	\$775

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern.

With the passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, Canada has committed to closing the socio-economic gap and ensuring First Nations exercise jurisdiction over their inherent and Treaty rights and title. Sustained and continued investments are needed to uphold the UN Declaration's articles and allow First Nations to be equal partners in resetting and restoring the relationship.

Long-term investments in First Nations infrastructure – roads, housing, water treatment and connectivity – will empower First Nations contribution to Canada's economy and result in economic growth, wealth, and prosperity.

Investments in education, health, skills training, and justice programs ensure equality and equity for the next seven generations of First Nations citizens, inclusive of women, children and youth, Elders and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons, to lead healthy and prosperous lives.

Investments in First Nations climate and conservation leadership, and other environmental investments, will ensure our collective well-being.

Together, we can accelerate the closure of socio-economic gaps and work to reaffirm First Nations inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction. The following investments represent the necessary next steps in our healing path forward.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure investments support the well-being of First Nations, creating economic growth.

➤ **Community Infrastructure**

Investments are required to meet the immediate infrastructure needs of First Nations, moving Canada closer to fulfilling its commitments to close the infrastructure gap by 2030.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Renewals and capital maintenance	ISC	\$9,800
Upsizing and Expansion		\$2,500
Upgrades		\$543
Operations and Maintenance		\$7,700

➤ **Drinking Water and Wastewater**

Access to clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to health. Investments are required to ensure First Nations have reliable access to safe, clean drinking water and adequate sanitation.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Drinking Water	ISC	\$2,250
Wastewater		\$2,000
Wage Parity for Water Operator Salaries		\$225

➤ **Housing¹**

Long-term investments are needed to raise the quality and standards of housing to a level comparable to that of Canadians and provide the programs and services to address the overrepresentation of First Nations people among those experiencing homelessness.

	Department	(\$ millions)
First Nations Housing (new and renovated)	ISC, CMHC	\$44,000 to 2040
Addressing Future Housing Needs		\$16,000 to 2040
Eradicating Homelessness	INFC	\$3,300/5 years

¹ \$63.3B will meet the current and future housing needs of First Nations (133,000 new and renovated units) and respond to population growth (53,000 units to 2040)

➤ **Green Infrastructure**

Investments in developing and implementing a First Nations green infrastructure fund will contribute to a wide range of ecological and social benefits.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
First Nations Green Infrastructure Fund	ECCC	\$8,500
Clean/Alternative Energy Solutions (Green Economy Transition)		\$1,750

➤ **Connectivity**

First Nations require improved infrastructure for reliable internet service to enhance economic development, educational opportunities/supports, and health care access.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Minimum standard of broadband	ISED	\$650

➤ **Education Facilities**

Investments will maintain existing schools and teacherages and cover additions and construction based on improved First Nations school standards.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Operations and Maintenance	ISC	\$2,210
Capital Needs		\$4,700

➤ **Health Facilities**

Investments to support the planning, maintenance, and management of community health facilities, as well as improving access to digital health services.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Health Facilities Capital Program	ISC	\$450.5
e-Health/Digital Health Initiatives		\$325

EDUCATION

Investments will advance First Nations control of First Nations education in alignment with First Nations inherent and Treaty rights.

➤ Kindergarten to Grade 12

Investments will create opportunities for quality and culturally relevant education for children and youth.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
COVID-19 Learning Recovery	ISC	\$92/2 years
Regional Education Agreements		\$3,520
Education Transportation Services		\$1,070

➤ Post-Secondary

Improving access to post-secondary opportunities enhances socio-economic mobility. Investments will support students, institutions, and community-based programming.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Post-Secondary Student Support Program	ISC	\$7,260
First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions		\$1,070
Post-Secondary Education Models		\$686

➤ Adult Education

Investments are required to support programs, facilities, and wraparound services to meet the diverse needs of adult learners.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Adult Education	ISC	\$767.2

FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES

➤ Language Revitalization

During this International Decade on Indigenous Languages, investments will support language reclamation and revitalization.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Language Revitalization in the Classroom (K-12)	ISC	\$1,950
Language Revitalization in the Community	DCH	\$2,920

HEALTH

The following investments support health and wellness systems that are strength-based and rooted in First Nations cultures, addressing long-standing challenges and health inequities.

➤ Mental Wellness

Investments in culturally appropriate supports for mental wellness programs and services will support First Nations in addressing the substance mis/use crisis and providing for life promotion programs.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Mental Wellness Teams	ISC	\$567
National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program		\$1,320
First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework		\$284.4

➤ Health care

Investments will support culturally safe, close-to-home health care throughout the life cycle.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Home and Community Care	ISC	\$311
Palliative/End of Life Care		\$250
Midwifery		\$20
Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative		\$100
Anti-Racism in Health Care		\$64.35

➤ **Accessibility**

Investments will create fully accessible First Nations, in line with the *Accessible Canada Act*.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Accessibility Products, Services, and Devices	ESDC	\$150
Needs Assessment/Research/Implementation		\$750
Social Financing		\$150

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

➤ **Economic Development**

Investments will support locally driven activities, achieving equitable representation in the labour force.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Supporting First Nations Economies	NRCAN, ISED, ESDC, ISC	\$5,183
First Nations Labour Market Training and Skills	ESDC	\$672
Participation in the Agriculture and Agri-food sector	AAFC	\$100

JUSTICE

These investments will bring transformational change as outlined in the TRC and the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice.

➤ **Truth, Reconciliation and Healing**

Investments provide enhanced support for Survivors, advancing truth, reconciliation and healing for First Nations and Canadians.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program	ISC	\$567
National Indigenous Healing Organization	ISC	\$857
Residential Schools Investigation and Commemoration	CIRNAC	\$1,200

➤ **MMIWG Calls to Justice**

Implementation of the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into MMIWG will improve the safety and security of First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and ensure culturally appropriate healing and support services.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Implementation of MMIWG Calls for Justice – First Nations National Action Plan	CIRNAC	\$3,500

➤ **First Nations Policing**

Investments will expand First Nations policing to all First Nations seeking to establish their own police agencies equitable with other policing agencies.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Enhancements and Expansion of First Nations Police Agencies	PS, ISC	\$3,000
Implementation of a Statutory Framework Recognizing First Nations Police Services as Essential Services		\$600

➤ **Justice Reform and Reclamation**

Investments to address the overrepresentation in the criminal justice system and to increase recognition of Indigenous customary laws and legal norms.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Establishment of Restorative Justice Programs	JC	\$750
Community Safety and Security Programs		\$650

RIGHTS

Investments in rights implementation are investments in Crown-First Nations relationships.

➤ **UNDRIPA National Action Plan**

A robust First Nations-led process to develop and implement the UNDRIPA National Action Plan will usher in a new era of improved relationships.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Develop and Implement UNDRIPA National Action Plan	JC	\$372.5

➤ **Repeal of Inherent Rights to Self-Government Policy**

First Nations-led repeal of this problematic policy must be aligned with the UN Declaration.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Repeal the Inherent Right to Self-Government Policy	CIRNAC	\$24.5

➤ **Indigenous Fisheries**

This investment will support the implementation of Supreme Court of Canada decisions related to First Nations fisheries, ensuring sustainability and effectiveness.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Indigenous Fisheries Secretariat	DFO, CIRNAC	\$333 (\$115 ongoing)

LANDS

First Nations cultures, laws and economies are connected to and flow from the land. Investments will support the return of lands consistent with the UN Declaration.

➤ **Treaty Commissioner’s Office**

A National Treaty Commissioner, with support and capacity, will meaningfully guide how the spirit and intent of the Treaties and the sacred relationships made can be healed, respected, maintained, and expanded.

Required Investments	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Treaty Commissioner’s Office	CIRNAC	\$92

➤ **First Nations Seeking Federal Recognition**

These investments will support First Nations without a land base and those seeking formal recognition from the federal government.

Required Investments	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
First Nations Seeking Federal Recognition	CIRNAC	\$1,300

➤ **Lands Policy Reform**

Investments to support consultation and policy development to repeal current policies and replace them with First Nations-driven alternatives.

Required Investments	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Reform the Additions-to-Reserve Policy	CIRNAC	\$115
Reform the Specific Claims Policy		\$230
Repeal the Comprehensive Land Claims Policy		\$24.5

GOVERNANCE

➤ **Financial, administrative, and political governance supports**

Investments in First Nations financial, administrative, and political governance programs will ensure efficient and effective governance and service delivery.

Required Investments	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Band Support Funding	ISC	\$2,700
Band Employee Benefits		\$400
Professional and Institutional Benefits		\$300
Tribal Council Funding		\$100

➤ **Emergency services**

Investments in culturally appropriate First Nations emergency management regimes will support capacity building, human resources, training, and equipment.

Required Investments	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Emergency Services	ISC	\$38.3

➤ **Citizenship**

Investments for First Nations-led process to remedy ongoing inequities in “Indian registration” unaddressed by Bill S-3 and to support First Nations’ jurisdiction over citizenship.

Required Investments	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Regional engagement on Indian Registration rights	CIRNAC, ISC	\$8.25
Develop self-determined capacity		\$294

ENVIRONMENT

First Nations, while diverse, share a common understanding that we are one with Mother Earth.

➤ **First Nations Leadership in Climate and Conservation**

Investments will support First Nations leadership in climate action, conservation, and biodiversity, ensuring our collective well-being.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
First Nations Climate and Emergency Coordinator Network	ECCC	\$325
First Nations Climate Institute		\$15
Documenting Impacts, Planning Solutions to Climate Change		\$500
Adaptation Planning and Implementation		\$350
First Nations-led Conservation		\$1,500
Pan-Canadian Approach to Wildlife Health Implementation		\$119.5

➤ **Environmental Health**

Investments will strengthen food security with a First Nations-led food strategy and environmental contaminants protection, building resilient First Nations food systems with increased access to traditional food.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
First Nations Food Strategy	ECCC	\$650
Environmental Contaminants Protection		\$1,200

➤ **Water Stewardship**

Investments will support First Nations-led sustainable development and water and environmental stewardship and honour the traditional roles and responsibilities of First Nations women, youth, and gender-diverse people.

	Department	Over 5 years (\$ millions)
Sustainable Development Research and Capacity	ESDC, ECCC, ISC	\$500
Engagement on 2030 Agenda, Federal Sustainable Development Strategy		\$30
Water Stewardship (planning, monitoring, governance)	ECCC, DFO, ISC	\$25
Marine Conservation through marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)	ECCC, DFO	\$220