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# Assembly of First Nations

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# Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**July 9, 10, 11, 2024, Montreal, QC**

**Resolution no. 05/2024**

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**TITLE:** Financial Security for AFN Regional Offices

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**SUBJECT:** Governance

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**MOVED BY:** Alex Oakley, Proxy, Teslin Tlingit Council, YK

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Amanda Leas, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, YK

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**DECISION** Carried; 3 Opposition

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
  - ii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedure, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
  - iii. Article 39: Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.
- B. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national organization, established to advocate and advance the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of its First Nations membership, as directed by the First Nations-in-Assembly and carried out by the Executive Committee and Secretariat, in accordance with the Charter of the Assembly of First Nations, originally adopted in 1985 and recently consolidated in December 2022 (the "Charter").
- C. Article 2.5 of the Charter provides:

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 9th day of July, 2024 in Montreal, Quebec**

*Cindy Woodhouse*

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**CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF**

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The Assembly of First Nations shall remain at all times an instrument to advance the aspirations of First Nations and shall not become greater in strength, power, resources or jurisdiction than the First Nations for which it was established to serve.

- D. The Executive Committee represents one of the eight organs within the national organization as set out in Article 5 of the Charter.
- E. Regional Chiefs, supported by their respective Regional Offices, advocate and support the interests and priorities of the rights holders within their respective regions and provide important historical, cultural, political, and geographical perspectives while supporting the work of the Executive Committee and the Office of the National Chief when implementing directives established by the First Nations-in-Assembly.
- F. Regional Chiefs and their Regional Offices need the First Nations-in-Assembly's support to achieve financial security in the form of core funding to properly fulfil their duties and responsibilities as Executive Committee members and to carry out the work of the Assembly of First Nations. The financial stabilization and investment in AFN Regional Offices is an investment in the work of the Assembly of First Nations.
- G. The Government of Canada provides annual funding in the form of core funding to the Assembly of First Nations national office that supports core areas such as Finance, Records, IT, Human Resources, CEO, and other Senior staff positions required to administer and operate the organization. The core funding provided to the AFN has not increased for 7 years and is inadequate to meet the needs of the growing organization.
- H. Article 2.7 of the Charter provides:

The resources allocated to the Assembly of First Nations Secretariat shall be distributed and utilized for the great benefit of all Member First Nations in efforts that are truly in form and substance national in scope and for which consensus has been achieved by the member First Nations.
- I. The financial stability of the AFN Regional Offices should be treated as a priority by the AFN National Office and National Chief, and the AFN Regional Offices' annual funding requirements should not be treated as a secondary priority to the financial needs of the AFN National Office.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Secretariat, the National Chief and Executive Committee to work together to establish a core funding formula to identify a regional base amount for the AFN Regional Offices.
2. Direct the AFN and the National Chief to advocate to Canada for long-term sustainable financial resources to support the core operations of AFN Regional Offices for the year 2025–2026 and beyond.
3. Direct the AFN and the National Chief to develop and commence a lobby strategy to secure federal funding that will respond to the annual funding needs of the AFN Regional Offices.
4. Direct the AFN and National Chief to identify alternative funding mechanisms to ensure member nations without a regional office or representative are able to participate in the co-development of policies and procedures regardless of the presence of a formalized AFN office in that region.

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5. Direct the AFN to provide a report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly in December 2024.

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