



NOVEMBER 30, 2012 DRAFT

**ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012
GATINEAU, QUEBEC
DECEMBER 4 – 6, 2012**

DRAFT AGENDA

The Unfulfilled Promise of Section 35

Special Chiefs Assembly 2012 Objectives

Consistent with the AFN Charter, Assemblies will provide First Nations Chiefs or their designated representatives a forum at which they can:

- *Maximize opportunities for exchange and the **development of consensus on fundamental issues** and common interests in relation to First Nation- Crown relations, international relations and partnerships.*
- *Enable **focused dialogue** and political strategy discussion dealing with health and wellness, claims and land rights, education, residential schools, First Nation governments, environment and economic partnerships, community development and safety and social development and child welfare.*
- *Provide **mandate and direction** through designated regional caucus sessions and dedicated resolutions review and decision making.*

PRE-ASSEMBLY EVENTS

Monday, December 3, 2012

SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION:

Where to Next: Beyond the Indian Act, Fulfilling the Promise of section 35

Featuring Leo Baskatawang, March 4 Justice, Ovide Mercredi, BCAFN Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould, Vera Pawis-Tabobondung, President, National Association of Friendship Centres and Caitlin Tolley, Councillor, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

River Building Atrium, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive Ottawa

Dialogue will be focused on achieving change by implementing First Nation rights, responsibilities, jurisdiction and Treaties as many First Nations across Canada are advancing plans to move away from the Indian Act in ways that help strengthen their governments and communities.

PRE-REGISTRATION

Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau, QC

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012 – DAY ONE
Tuesday, December 4, 2012

6:30 a.m.	PIPE CEREMONY - Ballroom, Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau	
7:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION - Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau	
8:30 a.m.	GRAND ENTRY	
8:45 a.m.	OPENING PRAYER	Elder Bertha Commonda, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
	VETERAN'S WELCOME	Chief Percy Joe, Shackan Indian Band, BC
9:00 a.m.	WELCOMING REMARKS	Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
9:45 a.m.	PROCEDURE	Adoption of Rules and Agenda
10:00 a.m.	OPENING ADDRESSES	National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
10:20 a.m.		National Youth Council National Women's Council National Elder's Council
11:00 a.m.	ORGANIZATION ACCOUNTABILITY	Aboriginal Healing Foundation , Georges Erasmus, Chair First Nations Child & Family Caring Society , Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director
11:30 a.m.	PRESENTATION	World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) 2014 - Grand Chief Ed John, Chair of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - Wilton Littlechild, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - John Henriksen, facilitator of the WCIP process - Kenneth Deer, North American Indigenous Representative on the Global Indigenous Conference Committee
11:55 p.m.	PROTOCOL SIGNINGS	Iroquois Caucus Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA)
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK <i>12:30 p.m.: Australian Film – Our Generation: Land, Culture, Freedom</i>	
1:30 p.m.	PANEL Section 35 & Protecting First Nations Sovereignty	- Ovide Mercredi, former National Chief - Georges Erasmus, former National Chief - Fred Lazar, Schulich School of Business, York University
3:00 p.m.	PERSPECTIVES Our Fair Share: Treaty Implementation, Resource Revenue Sharing & Revenue Generation	Treaty Implementation as Path to Economic Certainty - Saskatchewan Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde First Nation Resource Rulers - Bill Gallagher Spirit and Intent ~ Treaties and Economic Opportunities: First Nation Perspectives in Canada - Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation, ON

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012 – DAY ONE

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

4:30 p.m. OUTLINE for DAY TWO / DAY ONE ADJOURNS

EVENING ACTIVITIES

5:00 PM- 7:00 PM: *An Evening of Interaction ~ TAKING YOUR MESSAGE TO THE HILL*

Parliamentary Reception

Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Confederation Room

DRAFT

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012 – DAY TWO

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

6:30 a.m. PIPE CEREMONY - Ballroom, Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. REGIONAL CAUCUS SESSIONS

Alberta – Morrice Room

Atlantic- Julien Room

BC – Delfosse Room

Manitoba – Walker Room

Ontario – Beethoven Room

Quebec – Suzor Cote Room

Saskatchewan – Chopin Room

Yukon and NWT – Gagnon Room

9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. STRATEGY SESSIONS

Based on recommendations from First Nation leadership, these sessions are designed to maximize political dialogue and deliberation specific to First Nation government strategy development in relation to all key issues. These sessions will include an overview of past AFN resolutions and make a direct linkage to relevant articles of the UNDRIP. The discussion will be organized to enable a focused exchange on priority topics, to review draft resolutions and to chart a strategy forward. Regional Chiefs with portfolio responsibility along with designated AFN team leaders will moderate these sessions.

Social Assistance & Active Measures

Morrice Room

This session will examine the Active Measures initiative within the Income Assistance program and provide presentations that address the implementation of active measure based activities. The discussion will assist in increasing the effectiveness of the Active Measures strategy, from a First Nations perspective.

First Nations Water Strategy

Chopin Room

This session will present the draft National First Nations Water Strategy for discussion and ratification. The strategy focuses on Water Rights, Watershed Management, and Water Management. Interactive participation will be encouraged to further refine and provide greater detail towards what will be an ‘evergreen’ document, one that will affirm, guide and support First Nations positions on the care and protection of our waters. As well, this session will include a short discussion on AANDC’s evaluation on the performance and relevance of the First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan (FNWWAP). The FNWWAP and its predecessor, the First Nations Water Management Strategy (FNWMS) has been the main funding delivery program associated with the Federal Budgets provision for water and water projects since 2003.

Education Action Plan

Beethoven Room

Chiefs stood united in December 2009 making Education a top national priority for the AFN. This led to the Call to Action and a major advocacy effort. The federal government’s announcement to proceed with education legislation to replace the existing education sections (s. 114-122) of the Indian Act has generated considerable concern. The Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a motion at the October 2012 Chiefs Assembly on Education rejecting unilateral federal legislation.

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) has been tasked with developing a National Action Plan to further First Nations control of First Nations education ensuring needs-based, sustainable education funding that supports First Nations lifelong learning, language and culture.

A path forward based on recognition and implementation of First Nation treaty and inherent rights, supporting education success and respecting regional differences will be reviewed and discussed at this session.

Economic Partnerships

Mozart Room

This session proposes a discussion to help coordinate priorities and advocacy initiatives specific to First Nation economies and addressing issues that correspond with economic development. Consideration will be given toward First Nation economic programs, services and incentives; responsible resource development; major projects; facilitating economic and trade growth; employment and training; connectivity; relationship building; and being part of regional and national development planning.

Changes to the Fisheries Act

Grand Salon-Julien,
Gagnon, Walker

Two recent omnibus budget implementation bills create significant changes to the legal framework governing fisheries and aquatic resources. AGA Resolution 24-2012: *Consultations and Engagement on Amendments to the Fisheries Act*, has directed AFN to notify and call upon DFO to engage and consult with First Nations.

This strategic session will provide information on proposed changes to the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigation Protection Act* and opportunity for discussion on proposed regulations and policies, including developing strategic recommendations.

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012 – DAY TWO

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

11:45 a.m. LUNCH BREAK

1:00 p.m.
MAIN
PLENARY

Special Presentation: *Flooding Hope: The Lake St. Martin First Nation Story*

RESOLUTIONS / DECISION MAKING

4:30 p.m.

Sharing First Nations' Innovation & Success

– Chief James Allen, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation partnership with Habitat for Humanity

5:00 p.m. OUTLINE for DAY THREE/ DAY TWO ADJOURNS

EVENING ACTIVITIES

6:00 p.m. –
8:00 p.m.

Special Session: Review of the Impacts of Administrative Law on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

This session, co-led with the Cree Naskapi Commission, will focus dialogue on opportunities presented for First Nations tribunals and boards to further implementation of jurisdiction and self-government.

Update on Indian Residential Schools and Day Schools/Day Scholars

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012 – DAY THREE

Thursday, December 6, 2012

6:30 a.m. **PIPE CEREMONY** - Ballroom, Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **REGIONAL CAUCUS SESSIONS**

Alberta – Morrice Room	Atlantic- Julien Room	BC – Delfosse Room
Manitoba – Walker Room	Ontario – Beethoven Room	Quebec – Suzor Cote Room
Saskatchewan – Chopin Room	Yukon and NWT – Gagnon Room	

9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **STRATEGY SESSIONS**

Based on recommendations from First Nation leadership, these sessions are designed to maximize political dialogue and deliberation specific to First Nation government strategy development in relation to all key issues. These sessions will include an overview of past AFN resolutions and make a direct linkage to relevant articles of the UNDRIP. The discussion will be organized to enable a focused exchange on priority topics, to review draft resolutions and to chart a strategy forward. Regional Chiefs with portfolio responsibility along with designated AFN team leaders will facilitate these sessions.

<p>Environmental Stewardship & Species at Risk</p> <p>Morrice Room</p>	<p>The spring Omnibus budget bill made substantial changes to the federal environmental assessment regime, as well as several other pieces of legislation. The Species at Risk Act is due for a legislative review and will likely face a major overhaul in the near future.</p> <p>This session will focus on explaining the changes to the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012</i>, the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>, the <i>National Energy Board Act</i> and the <i>Navigation Protection Act</i>, as well as developing strategies to ensure First Nations rights are protected during the project approval process. It will also provide the opportunity to discuss challenges with the implementation of Species at Risk Act, and potential areas of concern moving forward to an impending legislative overhaul.</p>
<p>Land Rights And Claims</p> <p>Beethoven Room</p>	<p>The focus of this session is on advancing the dialogue in three main areas: (1) Comprehensive Claims Policy reform; (2) improving the Additions to Reserve policy and process; and (3) Specific Claims / Tribunal. A number of new resolutions are expected to inform AFN’s mandates in these areas.</p>
<p>Mental Health</p> <p>Grand Salon-Julien, Gagnon, Walker</p>	<p>This session will provide an overview of the work that is being undertaken, in partnership with Health Canada, on the development of a Mental Wellness Continuum Framework. The session will act as both an information forum and a strategy discussion. The session will look to gather information and input that will then inform the development of the continuum framework and look to the future steps of implementation.</p>
<p>Community Safety & Ending Violence – planning for a National Forum</p> <p>Chopin Room</p>	<p>First Nation leadership have called for action to address the critical situation of violence, disappearance, and murder of countless Indigenous women and girls. Resolution 01-2012 mandates the AFN to work with the Native Women’s Association of Canada to hold a National Forum and Chiefs Assembly on Justice and Community Safety, to include focus on murdered and missing women and broader actions to end violence.</p> <p>This session will focus on planning for this national gathering and actions to implement <i>Demanding Justice and Fulfilling Rights: A Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls</i>.</p>
<p>National First Nations Housing Strategy</p> <p>Mozart Room</p>	<p>This session will begin with two presentations on the successful Habitat for Humanity Build on the Champagne Aishihik First Nations settlement lands in Yukon Territory and a update on the AAFN/AFN/Holmes Foundation pilot project and the development of a First Nations Sustainable Development Standards (FNSDS) User Questionnaire will precede the strategy discussion.</p> <p>This will be followed by a discussion on the development of a draft National First Nations Housing Strategy for discussion and ratification. Interactive participation will be encouraged to further refine and provide greater detail towards what will be an affirmative and defining document that is intended to address how to address the serious backlog of housing in First Nation communities, grounded in a rights-based approach.</p>

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012 – DAY THREE

Thursday, December 6, 2012

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2012 – DAY THREE

Thursday, December 6, 2012

11:45 a.m. LUNCH BREAK

1:00 p.m. Presentation: **Shale Gas Development**, Chief Sharleen Wildeman, Fort Nelson First Nation, BC

**MAIN
PLENARY**

RESOLUTIONS / DECISION MAKING

3:30 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

EVENING ACTIVITIES

AFN WINTER CELEBRATION FUNDRAISING DINNER & DANCE

Hilton Lac Leamy

5:30 p.m. Reception

7:15 p.m. Dinner