

SUMMARY OF 2011 ELECTION COMMITMENTS ON FIRST NATIONS

In *"First Nations Count"*, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) outlined a number of priorities for First Nations. These were derived based on resolutions from Chiefs-in-Assembly and strategic planning of the AFN National Executive, and reflect our broad theme of *'working together now to build success for the future.'* AFN also asked specific questions related to these priorities for direct comment and response by the Parties.

While parties have not yet responded to the questions, all federal parties have released their platforms for the 2011 Election. A quick summary of Party commitments to this point in the campaign that may be relevant to these priorities can be found in the chart below. Please note: Conservative commitments incorporate both the March 2011 Budget and the Platform released April 8, 2011. For more information and updates please go to www.afn.ca.

					
First Nations Count	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic Party	Bloc Québécois	Green
<p>Affirmation – Recognizing rights and responsibilities and enabling First Nation governments to move beyond the <i>Indian Act</i>, implementing Treaties and agreements and settling claims.</p>	<p>Will honour the contributions of First Nations to the Canadian victory in the War of 1812.</p> <p>Will introduce, as government legislation, Conservative MP Kelly Block's bill requiring the publication of the salaries and expenses of First Nations chiefs and councilors.</p>	<p>Will create an Office of the First Nations Auditor General to monitor progress, identify best practices, and ensure accountability for public funds.</p> <p>Will reinstate the Court Challenges Program (which provided financial assistance for pursuing equality rights).</p>	<p>Will build a new partnership on a nation-to-nation basis with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across the country to restore a central element of social justice in Canada and reconcile the hopes of Aboriginal people with those of all Canadians.</p> <p>Will remove the punitive 2% funding cap on INAC transfers to aboriginal communities.</p>	<p>Will support efforts to move towards a real partnership between Quebecers and Aboriginal peoples</p> <p>Will continue to urge the federal government to respect the treaties and establish a true partnership with Aboriginal peoples, based in confidence, mutual respect and recognition of their rights.</p> <p>Will support efforts to</p>	<p>Canadian democracy is more secure when human rights are respected – starting with the First Nations and indigenous peoples of this continent, Turtle Island.</p> <p>Canada must move forward in implementing the spirit of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>



First Nations
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Conservative



Liberal



New Democratic
Party



Bloc Québécois



Green

	<p>Will establish a Hunting Advisory Panel, reporting to the Minister of the Environment, comprised of representatives of provincial and territorial hunters and anglers associations, to ensure government decisions are based on solid science and balanced advice.</p>			<p>ensure the participation of Aboriginal peoples in the development, and implementation of government programs and policies that impact on their lives or those that are intended to promote their rights and interests.</p> <p>Will ensure that First Nations will be consulted before changing any laws that have impact on their Nations.</p> <p>Will demand that Canada endorse the UNDRIP and recommend that non-signatory circumpolar countries do the same.</p>	
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<p>Education – Investing and enabling a sustainable, equitable First Nation education system supportive of First Nation language and culture.</p>	<p>Will expand adult basic education programming in the territories, which will help increase education and employment levels among Aboriginals in the North.</p> <p>National Panel to lead engagement process to develop options for concrete positive changes in First Nations education to bring greater success and opportunities for all First Nation students. (Budget 2011)</p>	<p>The gap between levels of education attained by rural and urban youth is significant, and the one between Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal Canadians is completely unacceptable.</p> <p>Will invest an additional \$200M per year in the next two years to lift the cap on post-secondary education funding.</p> <p>Will explore with Aboriginal leaders ways to deliver resources more directly to students and their families.</p> <p>Will work to increase the retention of Aboriginal students in Canada's post secondary institutions.</p> <p>Will invest \$300M new funding in K-12 starting in 2012-13 and will support efforts to improve</p>	<p>Will address the education deficit with a \$1B per year investment over the next four years, inspired by Shannen's Dream.</p> <p>Will increase the funding in the Canada Student Grants Program by \$200M a year, targeting accessibility for Aboriginal, disabled and low-income students, in particular.</p> <p>In collaboration with the provinces and territories, we will establish programs aimed at recruiting and supporting low-income, rural and aboriginal medical students.</p>	<p>Will work towards rectifying education financing to at a minimum keep pace with First Nation demographics.</p> <p>Will support Quebec First Nations in their 10,000 possibilities proposal – to create 10,000 new jobs, 10,000 new school graduates and 10,000 new houses</p>	<p>Will increase spending on "First Nations education, safe drinking water and improved housing" by \$800M annually.</p>
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		administration. Will provide an additional \$10M annually to the First Nations University of Canada to sustain and expand services.			
Partnership – Unlocking the economic potential of First Nations, supporting First Nation economies, new energy opportunities and affirming environmental responsibility.	<p>Will work toward an agreement with provincial, regional, municipal, Aboriginal, and community stakeholders to establish a National Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Will provide new investments in First Nations Land Management, allowing First Nations to promote the development of their reserve lands and resources (Budget 2011 allocated \$20M over two years to this).</p> <p>Will invest a minimum of \$20M per year for the next four years in Aboriginal</p>	<p>Will work with P/Ts, First Nations and conservation groups to protect more of Canada's intact wilderness areas.</p> <p>Will engage with coastal communities, First Nations, provincial governments, tourism operators, ocean industries and other ocean users in decisions about how to reduce risks to oceans health.</p> <p>Will publicly tender contracts for private companies to install broadband capacity for those in rural, remote or northern areas who currently do not have</p>	<p>Will increase access to capital for aboriginal business development so that First Nations, Inuit and Métis people can fully participate in the Canadian economy.</p> <p>Will develop, in consultation and cooperation with provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments, unions, energy providers, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders a comprehensive strategy for our country's long-term energy security in a lower carbon future.</p> <p>Will ensure all</p>	<p>Will call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to rectify inequitable living conditions which affect dramatically those communities.</p> <p>Will demand that Canada develop consultation tools to work with Arctic peoples, and encourage members of the Arctic council to do the same and that Nunavik is included in Canada's Northern Strategy.</p> <p>Will support Quebec First Nations in their 10,000 possibilities proposal – to create 10,000 new jobs,</p>	



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	<p>Entrepreneurship and Skills Development.</p> <p>Will promote the deployment of clean energy technologies in Aboriginal and Northern communities.</p> <p>Budget 2011 proposed to provide \$8M over two years to promote the deployment of clean energy technologies in Aboriginal and Northern communities to reduce their reliance on non-renewable resources.</p>	<p>access.</p>	<p>Canadians, no matter where they live, have quality high-speed broadband internet access.</p>	<p>10,000 new school graduates and 10,000 new houses.</p>	
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<p>Safety and Community Health – Addressing critical foundations of community health and safety including housing, safe drinking water, emergency response, community justice and intervention to affirm and protect the vital role of women and children in our communities.</p>	<p>Will build an all-weather road linking Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk.</p> <p>Budget 2011 committed to an additional \$30M over two years in First Nations Policing Program.</p> <p>Will support environmental safety upgrades to fuel tanks that power essential community infrastructure in many remote & rural First Nation communities (Budget 2011 committed \$22M over two years to upgrade this infrastructure)</p>	<p>Will create a new Affordable Housing Framework to promote progress on the particular needs of people with disabilities, as well as Northern and Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Will create a national task force on Murdered & Missing Aboriginal women to examine systemic causes and focus on future prevention.</p> <p>Will commit \$40M over four years to implement a new Healthy Start program to help 250,000 children from low-income families access healthy, home-grown foods.</p> <p>Will commit to ongoing support for the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program and Aboriginal Head Start Program.</p>	<p>Will improve physical infrastructure such as housing, drinking water facilities, roads and other essential services.</p> <p>Will table legislation to set goals and targets for poverty reduction in consultation with P/T, municipal and Aboriginal governments and NGOs.</p> <p>Will support a coordinated federal response to violence against Aboriginal women, led by Aboriginal communities, & including the ongoing funding of Aboriginal women's organizations.</p> <p>Will work with the P/Ts and FNs to provide stable, multi-year funding to put at least 2,500 new police officers on the streets, and keep them there permanently.</p>	<p>Will support First Nations in Quebec to urge the federal government to take concrete measures to fulfill its apology to Indian Residential School survivors.</p> <p>Will support Quebec First Nations in their 10,000 possibilities proposal – to create 10,000 new jobs, 10,000 new school graduates and 10,000 new houses.</p>	<p>Will increase spending on "First Nations education, safe drinking water and improved housing" by \$800 million annually.</p>
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