

FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

The AFN presented *Closing the Gap: 2015 Federal Election Priorities for First Nations and Canada* on September 2, 2015. The document sets out specific action items across six broad themes: Strengthening First Nations, Families and Communities; Sharing and Equitable Funding; Upholding Rights; Respecting the Environment; Revitalizing Indigenous Languages; and Truth and Reconciliation. Each federal party was asked for a formal response to the priorities and to date the AFN has received responses from the Green Party, Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party.

This document compiles commitments made by each party during the campaign period and assesses whether they fulfil the AFN priorities and action plan set out in *Closing the Gap*.

STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

From the AFN's CLOSING THE GAP: 2015 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND CANADA

Within the first 100 days the newly elected federal government will:

- Launch an honourable joint process to close the education gap through First Nations Control of First Nations Education. This includes immediate and continued new investments in classroom funding to catch up from years of underfunding and neglect and a guaranteed annual escalator which ensures equitable funding. Additionally, new investments are required for regional education organizations, systems development, new school construction, operations and maintenance.
- Engage in a collaborative process to develop, with First Nations, a National Action Plan to address the root causes of violence experienced by First Nations women and girls.
- Establish an inclusive and comprehensive National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls with full involvement of Indigenous organizations, communities and families.

Within the first two years the newly elected federal government will:

- Commit to increased investments to ensure equality in child welfare services and programs for First Nations children and families, and develop with First Nations an equitable funding formula and escalator.
- Work with the AFN to develop and implement a First Nations Health Plan to close the gap in health outcomes. This requires long-term, sustainable and substantive investments in First Nations health services, prevention, promotion and Non-Insured Health Benefits.
- Work with the AFN to implement the *First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework* to support greater individual and community wellness.
- Implement and uphold *Jordan's Principle* to ensure that First Nations children will not face delays or disruptions in health services.
- Provide long-term and sustainable investments to support flexible First Nations skills and employment training responsive to First Nations and industry's needs in the economy. This will be delivered by First Nations-mandated organizations through a renewed relationship.
- Engage in a joint process with First Nations to develop and implement a statutory framework recognizing First Nations Police Services as essential services with equitable funding and capacity supports.
- Support the development and implementation of community safety and security action plans to ensure that all First Nations people – women, men, girls, boys, two-spirit and transgender people and others – are free from violence.
- Support the development and implementation of restorative First Nation justice systems and implement actions to end over-representation of First Nations people in the criminal justice and correctional systems.
- Repeal the *Safe Communities Act* and imposition of mandatory sentencing.



FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 9, 2015.

- Will mandate the Mental Health Commission of Canada to focus on addiction and suicide prevention with particular attention on Canada's First Nations communities.
- The Mental Health Commission of Canada will study community suicide-prevention programs, including in First Nations communities, to test their effectiveness.
- The Commission will also prioritize working with groups who, for a number of reasons, experience mental illness at a higher level than the rest of the country, including veterans and members of Canada's First Nations.
- Target palliative care research funding to focus on services in First Nations communities.
- Expand anti-gang programming to help at risk youth who are drawn to urban gangs.
- Provide ongoing support for Aboriginal postsecondary bursaries in partnership with Indspire, an Aboriginal-led national charity dedicated to helping First Nations students receive post-secondary education.
- Remains committed to working with willing First Nations partners and provinces to improve First Nations educational outcomes so that students living on reserve are better placed to reach their full potential.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released September 9, 2015.

- Will respect the rights of First Nations to take leadership of development projects on their traditional territories. Creating opportunity for indigenous communities and their people means ensuring access to quality public services for all First Nations, Metis and Inuit. It requires adequate funding for housing, education, and health care, both on and off reserves.
- Will work to expand rural health care infrastructure by investing in telehealth and mobile medical units, to ensure indigenous communities have access to critical care. The ongoing crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women must be urgently addressed.
- Will launch a national inquiry and fight to ensure that structural violence against indigenous communities is addressed.
- By investing heavily in advanced skills training, expanding support for trades and apprentice programs, and capturing additional value by processing resources here in Canada, will create good jobs in the resource sector and in local communities.
- Ensure that every First Nations, Metis, and Inuit child has access to quality educational opportunities based on the expressed cultural, political, and social priorities of the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit governments following meaningful consultation.
- Increase access for First Nations education by removing the 2% funding cap and fully funding the program back log (at a cost of \$424 million).
- Support the development of Aboriginal education curricula that are language and culture specific.



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 5, 2015; Specific Announcement on First Nation education on August 13, 2015.

- Will work with First Nations to make sure that every First Nations child receives a quality education. Will engage in a renewed, respectful, and inclusive nation-to-nation process to close the gap in First Nations education.
- It is vital to Canadians' shared success to work together to ensure better economic outcomes for First Nations. This starts with education.
- To help close the funding gap and improve outcomes for First Nations students, will invest new funding each year in core funding for kindergarten through grade 12 programs. This will include money committed by Stephen Harper that has yet to flow, plus an additional \$300 million per year in incremental funding, totalling \$750 million per year by the end of our first mandate. Over the next four years, this represents a \$2.6 billion new investment in helping First Nations students learn and succeed.
- Will also invest an additional \$500 million over the next three years for building and refurbishing First Nations schools.
- Will invest \$50 million in additional annual funding to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, which supports Indigenous students attending post-secondary education, ensuring the program will keep up with growing demand.
- Believe that First Nations' control of First Nations education is vital to achieving improved outcomes, and will make these investments as part of a renewed, respectful, and inclusive nation-to-nation process that fully respects
- Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- Will immediately launch a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada, to seek recommendations on concrete actions that governments, law enforcement, and others can take to solve these crimes and prevent future ones.
- Will also work with provinces, territories, and First Nations to create a new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework, to ensure that affordable, high-quality, fully inclusive child care is available to all families who need it.
- Will make sure that all First Nations receive equitable funding for child and family services provided on reserves.



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ■

Indigenous platform released October 7, 2015; Specific Announcement on Ending Violence on August 31, 2015.

- Will launch a national inquiry on murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls within the first 100 days in office.
- Will work with women's groups and Indigenous communities and organizations to create a comprehensive and coordinated national action plan to end violence against women. The plan will focus on women who are most vulnerable to violence, including Indigenous women.
- Restore funding to the federal Shelter Enhancement program.
- Work with First Nations through a meaningful collaborative process to develop new education policies and laws based on the principle of Indigenous self-government.
- Make a new investment in First Nations education of \$1.8 billion over the next four years to immediately begin the work of ensuring every Indigenous child gets the educational opportunities afforded to every other child in Canada. Continue this work with annual increases over the long term based on an escalator so that the increase to First Nations education amounts to \$4.8 billion over eight years.
- Work with provinces, territories and Indigenous communities to deliver a Canada-wide quality early childhood education and childcare program where parents pay no more than \$15 a day.
- Deliver \$250 million in additional investment to federal student grants, ramped up over four years, focusing on helping students who need it most, including Indigenous students.
- Immediately begin phasing out interest on federal student loans, eliminating it completely in seven years.
- Work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to develop a plan to close the gap in health outcomes, and ensure quality and accessible health services for Indigenous communities.
- Invest in community-based health clinics, including the development of mobile clinics that improve access to health care providers in rural and remote locations.
- Create a new training and recruitment grant to help provinces hire more than 7,000 needed doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses, including recruitment grants to increase the number of health professionals in remote communities and the number of Indigenous doctors and nurses.
- Work with Indigenous communities and the provinces to improve urban Indigenous health outcomes with a new investment of \$120 million over four years.
- Invest in a \$100-million Mental Health Innovation Fund for Children and Youth, with an additional \$5 million per year for a suicide prevention strategy to serve at-risk populations, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.
- Establish a \$30-million Palliative Care Innovation Fund, including culturally appropriate care for elders and others in Indigenous communities.
- Make prescription drugs accessible to all at little or no cost, and work with the provinces and territories to deliver a universal drug plan.



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY *continued*

- Make federal health agencies like Health Canada and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIBH) more responsive and accountable to Indigenous communities.
- Increase access to affordable and nutritious food in northern, isolated communities by investing \$32 million to fix and expand Nutrition North, and work with Indigenous communities and Northerners on culturally appropriate and sustainable solutions to food insecurity.
- Work with Indigenous communities on a National Diabetes Strategy with an initial investment of \$20 million over four years.
- Implement Jordan's principle and commit to an equitable funding formula to address current funding inequities for child and family services.
- Work with local child services organizations to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care. Work with Friendship Centres and urban Indigenous organizations to renew and ensure the long-term sustainability of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy.
- Address the needs of urban First Nations, Inuit and Métis people with special attention to the appropriate development and the delivery of affordable housing, public health care, education and skills training, as well as the development of economic and employment opportunities.
- Work in partnership with First Nations towards developing a statutory framework recognizing First Nations Police Services as essential services.
- Support the development and implementation of community safety plans and restorative Indigenous justice systems.



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

SHARING AND EQUITABLE FUNDING

From the AFN's *CLOSING THE GAP: 2015 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND CANADA*

Within the first 100 days the newly elected federal government will:

Lift the 2% cap on federal funding to First Nations and immediately eliminate the funding gap it created.

- Immediately establish a new fiscal relationship, inclusive of new fiscal transfer arrangements with equitable escalators for ongoing funding.
- Commit to convening a multi-party process (First Nations, provinces, territories and Canada) to develop revenue sharing frameworks.
- Restore funding for First Nations representative organizations at all levels – national, provincial/territorial and tribal councils.

Within the first two years the newly elected federal government will:

- Commit, in Budget 2016, to long-term investments in First Nations water treatment and management systems to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation.
- Invest in First Nations housing to address the current backlog and demand for new homes.
- Support First Nations housing management authorities.
- Implement, through a multi-party process, the full involvement of First Nations in emergency prevention, management and mitigation agreements and support First Nations' roles and capacities to provide these services directly.
- Work with First Nations on the development and implementation of sustainable strategies to facilitate and enhance capacity to engage actively in the economy.



FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

SHARING AND EQUITABLE FUNDING

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 9, 2015.

- Some First Nations have expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of legislation that would allow private property ownership within current reserve boundaries while preserving existing governance and tax policy structures. The Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band, near Kamloops and Clinton in BC, has asked that the government move ahead with legislation that would allow it to establish a property ownership regime. 9A re-elected Conservative Government will enact legislation that allows this specific band to move forward in this way. If other First Nation bands also choose to pursue this option on a voluntary, opt-in basis, we'll proceed with similar legislation for them.
- Will support rural broadband expansion with a particular focus on First Nations communities to promote economic development.
- Provide new funding for Aboriginal labour market programs such as the Skills and Partnership Fund to provide skills development and training for Aboriginal peoples, in partnership with businesses.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released September 9, 2015.

- Housing Strategy will address the continuum of needs – from social housing for those in poverty or dealing with mental health and addiction problems, to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit housing crises, to the market failures depriving those with even a decent income of access to the affordable housing they need.

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 5, 2015.

- Will expand investment in First Nations communities and work toward forging a new fiscal relationship with First Nations.
- For nearly 20 years, investments in First Nations programs have been subject to a two percent cap on annual funding increases. As a result, federal funding has not kept up with population growth and inflation in First Nations communities. Will immediately lift the two percent cap on funding for First Nations programs and work to establish a new fiscal relationship that gives First Nations communities sufficient, predictable, and sustained funding.
- Increasing First Nations' own source revenues, whether through revenue sharing or other mechanisms, will be a priority.



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

SHARING AND EQUITABLE FUNDING

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ■

Indigenous platform released October 7, 2015.

- Remove the punitive 2% funding cap on social transfers to Indigenous communities imposed by previous Liberal and Conservative governments, and establish a fair fiscal relationship to close the gap between Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous Canadians.
- Will improve essential physical infrastructure such as housing, roads and drinking water facilities.
- Provide skills training by working with Indigenous partners to renew and improve the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy and ensure its long-term sustainability.
- Immediately address housing needs in remote communities by targeting \$100 million of critical infrastructure funding to double the number of new houses built and renovated on-reserve in the first year.
- Invest \$2.7 billion over four years in affordable housing and homelessness across Canada, including creating and strengthening housing agreements with Indigenous communities.
- Create local jobs, training and contracts for Indigenous businesses as part of housing and renovation projects. Implement sustainable development standards for housing construction, including the use of mould-free materials, energy-efficient building techniques and the use of locally harvested lumber.
- Work with First Nations to overhaul and restructure the First Nations Market Housing Fund to actually create more and better on-reserve housing.
- Provide \$500 million in incentives for the construction of affordable rental housing across Canada. Pass the Affordable Housing Act to recognize housing as a right.
- Ensure the full involvement of Indigenous communities in emergency prevention, management and mitigation agreements.
- Work with the provinces, human rights commissions and others to promote anti-racism education.
- Improve critical infrastructure in Indigenous communities such as housing, schools, and clean water and sanitation facilities with \$375 million of new investment over four years.
- As part of the local infrastructure transfer, dedicate \$96 million more over four years and long-term funding of \$800 million over 20 years to support infrastructure projects for Indigenous communities.
- Work with Indigenous communities to ensure local jobs, training and contracts for Indigenous businesses are part of critical infrastructure projects, including allocating \$5 million in grants annually to Indigenous governments and municipalities to create 1,250 youth apprenticeships each year in federally funded local infrastructure projects.
- Work to establish revenue sharing frameworks for resource development projects that provide benefits for Indigenous communities through a consultative process, including Indigenous communities, provincial governments and territories.
- Support opportunities for Indigenous contractors and workers with investments in infrastructure, training and innovation



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

UPHOLDING RIGHTS

From the AFN's *CLOSING THE GAP: 2015 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND CANADA*

Within the first 100 days the newly elected federal government will:

- Establish a joint AFN-Cabinet Committee to set direction and monitor the implementation of First Nation-Crown priorities.
- Engage in a collaborative process with First Nations to ensure the federal government is organized in a way that demonstrates accountability to First Nations and is consistent with s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- Repeal *Bill C-51* and ensure that security and policing legislation and operations respect and uphold First Nations' rights to expression, assembly and association.

Within the first two years the newly elected federal government will:

- Review existing policy and legislation and create a framework for future policy and legislation to ensure consistency with s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- Create tables, as defined by rights holders, on a Treaty-by-Treaty and Nation basis to ensure the meaningful recognition and implementation of Treaties, Aboriginal rights and title, with independent parliamentary oversight and enforcement mechanisms.
- Engage First Nations as full partners from the earliest stages in all decisions that have the potential to impact First Nations – law, policy, administration and procedure.
- Recognize the inherent rights of First Nations, and provide financial and capacity support for the development and implementation of First Nations laws as they exercise jurisdiction pertaining to their citizens, communities, and territories.
- Ensure meaningful inclusion of First Nations at Ministerial and inter-governmental decision-making tables which impact First Nations.
- Ensure Indigenous people are appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada as well as other decision-making bodies.
- Ensure that all joint processes are adequately supported and financed.



FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

UPHOLDING RIGHTS

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 9, 2015.

- No relevant commitments.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released September 9, 2015.

- Begin by recognizing indigenous rights and title, and will negotiate in good faith to settle land claims, establish treaties and self-government arrangements, and move to repeal the *Indian Act* should that be the consensus of First Nations.
- Will convene a council comprised of federal, provincial-territorial, municipal-local, as well as First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders. Gathered around the same table, national goals will be developed, publicly and transparently. Each level of government will then implement that part of the plan within its jurisdiction. Policy alignment will ensure the wise use of public dollars. All levels of government, pulling in the same direction, will put Canada on the path to a prosperous, sustainable future built on fairness and justice.
- Building a new era of nation-to-nation respect and partnership starts with recognizing First Nations' inherent rights and title. Will work together to negotiate comprehensive Indigenous self-governance arrangements, and bury the Indian Act.
- By investing heavily in advanced skills training, expanding support for trades and apprentice programs, and capturing additional value by processing resources here in Canada, will create good jobs in the resource sector and in local communities.

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 5, 2015.

- Will undertake, in full partnership and consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation, a full review of laws, policies, and operational practices. This will ensure that on project reviews and assessments, the Crown is fully executing its consultation, accommodation, and consent obligations, in accordance with its constitutional and international human rights obligations, including Aboriginal and Treaty rights and the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- Will renew the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples. It is time for Canada to have a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition, rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. This is both the right thing to do and a sure path to economic growth.
- Will immediately re-engage in a renewed nation-to-nation process with Indigenous Peoples to make progress on the issues most important to First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit communities – issues like housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education.



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

UPHOLDING RIGHTS

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA *continued*

- As part of this renewed relationship, will do more to make sure that the voices of Indigenous Peoples are heard in Ottawa. As Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau will meet with First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit leaders each and every year of a Liberal government mandate.
- Stephen Harper's changes to the *Canada Elections Act* make it harder for Indigenous Peoples to exercise their right to vote – the Liberal Party will repeal those changes.
- Will ensure that the Kelowna Accord – and the spirit of reconciliation that drove it – is embraced, and its objectives implemented in a manner that meets today's challenges.
- Will repeal the problematic elements of Bill C-51, and introduce new legislation that better balances our collective security with our rights and freedoms.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ■

Indigenous platform released October 7, 2015.

- Create a cabinet-level committee chaired by Tom Mulcair as Prime Minister to ensure that all government decisions respect treaty rights, inherent rights and Canada's international obligations.
- Implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Fix our country's broken treaty process and deal with unresolved claims.
- Repeal Bill C-51, which puts a chill on legitimate protest, and restore civil liberties in Canada.
- Ensure the full involvement of Indigenous communities in emergency prevention, management and mitigation agreements.
- Work with the provinces, human rights commissions and others to promote anti-racism education.
- Improve critical infrastructure in Indigenous communities such as housing, schools, and clean water and sanitation facilities with \$375 million of new investment over four years.
- As part of the local infrastructure transfer, dedicate \$96 million more over four years and long-term funding of \$800 million over 20 years to support infrastructure projects for Indigenous communities.
- Work with Indigenous communities to ensure local jobs, training and contracts for Indigenous businesses are part of critical infrastructure projects, including allocating \$5 million in grants annually to Indigenous governments and municipalities to create 1,250 youth apprenticeships each year in federally funded local infrastructure projects.



■ Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities ■ Partial or Incomplete Response ■ Inadequate Response or FN Priorities not mentioned

FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

From the AFN's *CLOSING THE GAP: 2015 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND CANADA*

Within the first 100 days the newly elected federal government will:

- Establish a multi-party dialogue with First Nations on environmental protection, stewardship and sustainability.
- Repeal changes to environmental legislation and regulations enacted through Bill C-38 and Bill C-45 and work with First Nations to develop environmental and resource laws to protect the lands and waters and ensure First Nations' rights and responsibilities are respected.
- Apply the standard of free, prior and informed consent, consistent with First Nations' fundamental rights, in any decision-making that has the potential to impact First Nations' lands, territories or resources.

Within the first two years the newly elected federal government will:

- Recognize and support the inherent rights of First Nations to develop and implement their own environmental regulations to manage traditional territories and resources.
- Ensure First Nations governments are provided sufficient legal, technical and financial capacity to participate in environmental review and other regulatory processes.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 9, 2015.

- No relevant commitments.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released September 9, 2015.

- Recognize that First Nations communities have been at the forefront of stalling irresponsible resource development projects like the Enbridge pipeline.
- Will work with First Nations and with the provinces to ensure that the responsible development of Canada's natural resource wealth benefits all Canadians, beginning with the consent of the peoples on whose traditional territories they exist. Truly responsible resource development means securing Canada's endowment of living systems and natural wealth, by setting strict rules on industrial development to eliminate waste and environmental pollution, limiting foreign control over Canadian resources, and putting an end to high-risk plans for new raw bitumen export pipelines and tankers.



FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 5, 2015.

- Recognize the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the land, and will respect legal traditions and perspectives on environmental stewardship.
- Will do a better job of co-managing our oceans, by working with the provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ■

Indigenous platform released October 7, 2015.

- As part of our climate change plan, target \$100 million towards clean energy development in remote communities that are dependent on diesel flown in for electricity generation.
- Reverse the dangerous damage done by Stephen Harper with omnibus budget bills C-38 and C-45 by putting teeth back into the environmental assessment process to protect our lakes and rivers.
- Uphold the Crown's duty to consult Indigenous peoples on decision-making that may impact them, consistent with the Canadian Constitution, legal obligations and the principle of free, prior and informed consent as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

From the AFN's *CLOSING THE GAP: 2015 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND CANADA*

Within the first 100 days the newly elected federal government will:

- Increase investments in existing efforts and initiatives to revitalize Indigenous languages, including immersion programs.
- Work with the AFN on a National Action Plan to revitalize and promote Indigenous languages.
- Work with the AFN on an Indigenous Languages Act consistent with the principles in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) *Calls to Action*.

Within the first two years the newly elected federal government will:

- Establish a National Indigenous Languages Revitalization Fund to support First Nations languages revitalization initiatives.
- Establish a permanent National First Nations Languages Institute and commit to ongoing operating funds for revitalization efforts.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 9, 2015.

- Increase funding to support the preservation and promotion of traditional Aboriginal languages: \$2.5 million per year for a total of \$10 million over 4 years.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA ■

Full platform released September 9, 2015.

- Recognize the critical importance of defending languages and cultures, and will provide new federal funding for culturally appropriate education in traditional languages.

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA ■

Full platform released October 5, 2015; Specific Announcement on First Nation education on August 13, 2015.

- Will provide new funding to support First Nations ability of Indigenous communities to promote, preserve and enhance Indigenous languages and cultures.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ■

Indigenous platform released October 7, 2015.

- Support initiatives to revitalize Indigenous languages by establishing, in consultation with Indigenous communities, a National Indigenous Languages Revitalization Fund and a National Indigenous Languages Institute with a total new investment of \$68 million over four years.



FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

FEDERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS OF INTEREST TO FIRST NATIONS

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

From the AFN's *CLOSING THE GAP: 2015 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND CANADA*

Within the first 100 days the newly elected federal government will:

- Fully adopt the Principles of Reconciliation provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and work with the AFN on implementation of the *Calls to Action*.

Within the first two years the newly elected federal government will:

- Jointly develop a report card with the AFN and report annually to the Chiefs-in-Assembly and Parliament on the implementation of the *Calls to Action*.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 9, 2015.

- As part of Prime Minister Harper's historic apology to the former students of Indian Residential Schools, we established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to educate all Canadians about the Indian Residential Schools system and to offer recommendations on how to improve the well-being of Canada's Aboriginal population. While we don't yet have the final report, a re-elected Conservative Government will take immediate action to address some of the key themes set out in its preliminary recommendations

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released September 9, 2015.

- Will fully adopt the report and work to implement the TRC Calls to Action.

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA ■

Platform released October 5, 2015.

- To support the work of reconciliation, and continue the necessary process of truth telling and healing, will work alongside provinces and territories, and with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit, to enact the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, starting with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ■






























Indigenous platform released October 7, 2015.




- Take action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations on a priority basis established in consultation with Indigenous communities, starting with a funding contribution of \$8 million over four years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.



Closing the Gap: 2015 Federal Election Priorities for First Nations and Canada

Assessment of Party Platforms

	 Conservative	 Green	 Liberal	 New Democratic Party
Strengthening First Nations, Families and Communities				
Sharing and Equitable Funding				
Upholding Rights				
Respecting the Environment				
Revitalizing Indigenous Languages				
Truth and Reconciliation				

-  Comprehensive Response to First Nations Priorities
-  Partial or Incomplete Response to First Nations Priorities
-  Inadequate response or First Nations Priorities not mentioned