



# Assembly of First Nations

## Accountability for Results ~ Transforming Accountability Relationships for First Nation Governments

AFN Spring 2011 Planning & Dialogue Forum  
March 8, 2011

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## Accountability for Results

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- Previously (2005), AFN and GoC had entered into a joint process to examine accountability measures with a view to ensure greater transparency and reciprocal accountability for First Nations governments in their relations with Canada, and with their citizens
- Initiative was cancelled – but can provide a foundation for moving forward

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## Accountability for Results

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- Shared Principles:
  - Primary accountability of any government is to its citizens
  - For policies, programs & services to First Nations, primary objective is to improve results for First Nations citizens
  - Accountability is shared between GOC and FN governments
  - Accountability is mutual between GOC and FN governments

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## Accountability for Results

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- Auditor General of Canada's 5 Principles for accountability
  - Roles & Responsibilities must be clear to parties
  - Performance Expectations, and restraints such as resources, must be agreed between them
  - Responsible party/parties must have the capacity to deliver
  - Must produce credible & timely information
  - Must build in review, feedback & response to fix problems & amplify successes

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## Tools to Transform the Accountability Relationship

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- Tools & conditions needed to apply AG's 5 principles effectively
- Getting the Federal House in Order
  - Enable Transformative Change
  - Machinery changes
  - FN Citizen Focus
- First Nations' Preparedness
  - Capacity Development
  - FN Institutions
  - Management Agreements

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## Getting the Federal House in Order

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- Enable Transformative Change
  - Review fiscal mechanisms and move towards per capita based transfers with agreed-to thresholds and escalators
  - Move away from punitive 3<sup>rd</sup> party measures to supporting governments
- Machinery changes
  - Structural change necessary to embody new accountability relationship & reduce redundant reporting
- First Nation Citizen Focus
  - Accountability centered on outcomes for First Nation citizens

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## Support for First Nations

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- FNs at different levels of preparedness, but universally support needed for:
  - Capacity Development: governments' planning processes and HR development for an effective public service PLUS clear mechanisms for support when communities face financial challenges
  - FN Institutions: to support standards and certification, financial management, data generation and tracking

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## Moving Forward

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- First Nations calling for need to drive accountability initiatives and counter myths about lack of accountability
- AFN providing continued advocacy and advancing working group
- AFN 2010 SCA highlighted Auditor General's work over the past 10 years
- Resolution 50-2010 reaffirms First Nation governments' commitment to transparency and directs Canada to work with First Nations in the genuine interest of accountability
  - Supports joint efforts towards the development of specific First Nation governance institutional capacity such as a First Nations ombudsperson, independent officer of Parliament and / or Auditor-General function

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