



## Special Chiefs Assembly 2015 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 Treaty implementation, claims and land rights, education, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, housing, drinking water, the environment and health.*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015

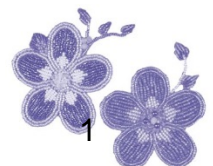
- AFN Executive Committee Meeting

### CHIEFS COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS:

- Chiefs Committee on Education / National Indian Education Council (December 7)
- AFN Women's Council (December 7)
- Chiefs Committee on Health (December 8/9)

### PRE-REGISTRATION

DECEMBER 7, 4 – 8 P.M., HILTON LAC-LEAMY, FOYER A





**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015**

**STRATEGY AND DIALOGUE SESSIONS**

**Hilton Lac-Leamy**

These sessions are an opportunity to outline current developments, provide regional and local perspectives, review draft resolutions and discuss options to advance First Nation solutions, in preparation for plenary dialogue during the Special Chiefs Assembly.

**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

<p><b>Housing and Water Regulations</b>  Delfosse</p>	<p>Recommendations from the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples study on Housing and Infrastructure will be presented and feedback on next steps will be discussed. Other housing and infrastructure issues will be discussed related to a "resetting" of the relationship between First Nations and Canada. The government's current direction on development of water regulations will be presented for discussion. Possible approaches to addressing the Prime Minister's commitment to eliminate drinking water advisories within his first mandate will also be discussed.</p>
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**1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

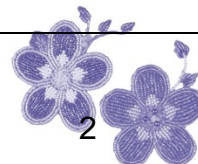
<p><b>Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</b> Suzor-Côté</p>	<p>The Federal Government has committed to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called on the federal government, among others, to adopt and implement the Declaration as the framework for reconciliation. International human rights experts and leadership will discuss how to move forward in a manner fully inclusive of and respecting First Nations rights.</p>
<p><b>Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls</b> Beethoven</p>	<p>This session will focus on sharing Regional and community-based initiatives, seek input to planning for the second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and discuss considerations for a National Public Inquiry.</p>
<p><b>Treaty Implementation</b> Mozart</p>	<p>Representatives from Treaty areas are invited to speak as part of a discussion on implementation of their Treaty and consider different options for moving forward, including the role of the AFN to support Treaty Nations in this objective.</p>
<p><b>Fisheries</b> Julien-Gagnon-Walker</p>	<p>This session will showcase various regional fisheries as they relate to their successes and share innovative ideas to address the challenges in working towards reconciliation, implementing rights, and closing the gap.</p>

**1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

<p><b>Health</b> Chopin</p>	<p>A comprehensive joint review is underway of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. Each benefit is being reviewed separately. The first benefit to be reviewed, the NIHB Mental Health Counselling Benefit, began in the spring of 2015 and was recently completed. This dialogue session will provide a brief overview of the recommendations relating to the NIHB Mental Health Counselling Benefit and provide an opportunity for leadership to provide their input and feedback into the draft implementation plan.</p>
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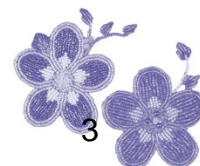
**3:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

<p><b>Land Rights and Claims</b> Suzor-Côté</p>	<p>Land Rights and Claims encompasses a range of issues, two of which will be dealt with here. The first half of the session will focus on Specific Claims, with a focus on the Specific Claims Tribunal. The second half of this session will focus on the ongoing need for a full reform of Canada's approach to Comprehensive Claims.</p>
<p><b>Support for the Recognition of First Nations Jurisdiction over Citizenship</b> Beethoven</p>	<p>First Nations leadership and technicians will have opportunity to discuss current issues related to jurisdiction over citizenship and to discuss support needed for the implementation and recognition of First Nations' own citizenship laws and Nation-based citizenship cards.</p>





<b>SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2015 – DAY ONE</b>		
<b>Tuesday, December 8, 2015</b>		
<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>PIPE CEREMONY</b>	Ballroom
<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	Foyer A
<b>9 a.m. – 5 p.m.</b>	<b>TRADE SHOW</b>	
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>GRAND ENTRY</b>	Ballroom
<b>8:40 a.m.</b>	<b>OPENING PRAYER</b> <b>WELCOMING</b>	Elder Elmer Courchene Chief Jean-Guy Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
<b>8:50 a.m.</b>	<b>ADDRESS BY THE NATIONAL CHIEF</b>	<b>National Chief Perry Bellegarde</b> <i>State of the Nations</i>
<b>9:10 a.m.</b>	<b>ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER</b>	<b>The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>PROCEDURE</b>	Adoption of Rules and Agenda
<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>VETERANS REMARKS</b>	Jim Eagle
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>TRI-COUNCIL REPORTS</b>	National Youth Council Co-chairs National Women's Council Chair National Elders Council Chair
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>SPECIAL HONOURINGS</b>	<b>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Commissioner Murray Sinclair</li> <li>• Commissioner Wilton Littlechild</li> <li>• Commissioner Marie Wilson</li> </ul> <b>First Nations Child and Family Caring Society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy Blackstock</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	





**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2015 – DAY ONE**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

**1:00 p.m.**

**WORKING WITH THE NEW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGY**

- National Chief Perry Bellegarde

**2:30 p.m.**

**UPHOLDING RIGHTS**

First Nations and Canada have a Nation-to-Nation relationship, enshrined in Treaties, ceremony and protocol, and affirmed in Canada's Constitution and international law. Canada must re-commit to this Nation-to-Nation relationship. Canadians believe in respecting and upholding rights, including First Nations' rights. The Crown must work hand-in-hand with First Nations in the spirit of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and sharing to achieve these objectives – the essence of a Treaty relationship. This session will offer insight into how Canada's laws, policies and practices could be changed to reflect these principles in practice. Our Elders and ancestors made a commitment to one another to work together based on partnership and mutual recognition of one another as Nations. We must honour that commitment.

- Alberta Regional Chief Craig Mackinaw, National Portfolio Holder for Specific Claims
- Yukon Regional Chief Mike Smith, National Portfolio Holder for Modern Treaties and Self-Determination
- Quebec and Labrador Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, National Portfolio Holder for Comprehensive Claims
- Update on Rio Tinto Alcan case: Chief Archie Patrick, Stelat'en First Nation; Chief Stanley Thomas, Saik'uz First Nation, Chief Mike (Pelash) McKenzie, Innu TakuaiKAN Uashat mak Mani-Utenam; Chief Réal McKenzie, Conseil des Montagnais de Matimekush
- Update on Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia: Chief Roger William, Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government

**4:00 p.m.**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CALLS TO ACTION**

- Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Regional Chief Morley Googoo, National Portfolio Holder for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- TRC Commissioners: Murray Sinclair, Wilton Littlechild and Dr. Marie Wilson

**5:00 p.m.**

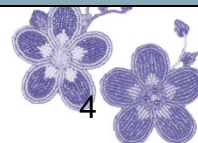
**OUTLINE for DAY TWO / DAY ONE ADJOURNS**

Resolutions will be dealt with according to subject area and at designated times for decision-making.

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**RECEPTION WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS & POLICY MAKERS: *Special Honouring of Indigenous MPs***

Hilton Lac-Leamy, Suzor-Côté-Delfosse Room



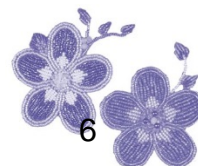




**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2015 – DAY TWO**

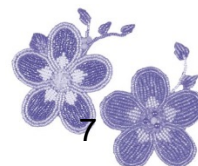
**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

<b>MAIN PLENARY</b>	<b>Resolutions will be dealt with according to subject area and at designated times for decision-making.</b>
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>UPDATE ON DAY SCHOLARS CLASS ACTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jo-Anne Gottfriedson, T'kemlups te Secwepemc, Day Scholar Coordinator</li> <li>- Councillor Garry Feschuk, shíshálh Nation</li> </ul>
<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- British Columbia Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson, National Portfolio Holder for Justice and Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls</li> <li>- Deputy Grand Chief Denise Stonefish, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Chair of the Ontario First Nations Women's Caucus and Karen Restoule, Director, Justice, Chiefs of Ontario: <i>WHO IS SHE?</i></li> <li>- Marcel Balfour, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs: <i>Families First</i></li> <li>- Beverly Jacobs, Legal Strategy Coalition</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>SHARING AND EQUITABLE FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative: <i>Building a New Fiscal Relationship for Education</i></li> <li>- Richard Nerysoo</li> </ul>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON NATION BUILDING AND AFN RESTRUCTURING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Chief Perry Bellegarde</li> <li>- Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring Representatives</li> <li>- Stuart Wuttke, AFN General Counsel</li> </ul>





SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2015 – DAY THREE		
Thursday, December 10, 2015		
<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>PIPE CEREMONY</b>	
<b>7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. REGIONAL CAUCUS SESSIONS</b>		
Alberta – Gagnon-Walker	Atlantic – Suite #424	Ontario – Chopin
Manitoba – Morrice	BC – Delfosse	Quebec – Jardin
Saskatchewan – Suzor-Côté	Yukon & NWT – Suite #324	
<b>9 a.m. – 12 p.m. TRADE SHOW</b>		
<b>MAIN PLENARY</b>	Resolutions will be dealt with according to subject area and at designated times for decision-making.	
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>N.I.B. TRUST UPDATE</b>	
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard</b>	
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<p><b>RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The inherent rights of First Nations derive from our responsibilities to the environment. Climate change poses significant threats to both the environment and to First Nation rights. This discussion will also include the international and domestic ramifications of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. First Nations will share experiences on how they are fulfilling responsibilities to the environment, profile clean energy initiatives, and reflect on how Canadian law and policy needs to be changed in order to ensure Canada supports both First Nation inherent rights and the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NWT Regional Chief Bill Erasmus, National Portfolio Holder for the Environment</li> <li>- Manitoba Regional Chief Kevin Hart, National Portfolio Holder for Alternative Energy</li> <li>- <u>Treaty 8 Update on Site C</u>: Chief Roland Willson, West Moberly Lake First Nations and Chief Lynette Tsakoza, Prophet River First Nation</li> <li>- <u>Update on Challenge to Line 9</u>: Chief Leslee White-Eye, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation</li> <li>- Caleb Behn, Executive Director, Keepers of the Waters</li> </ul>	





<b>SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY 2015 – DAY THREE</b> <b>Thursday, December 10, 2015</b>	
<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<p><b>REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES</b></p> <p>The release of the TRC’s Calls to Action and commitments from the newly elected government are fostering an environment for concrete and substantive changes to support communities and initiatives to reflect, promote and revitalize Indigenous peoples' identity, languages, and cultures. Language leaders and innovators will present on practical options jurisdictions can and should consider in an effort to support language revitalization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nova Scotia/ Newfoundland Regional Chief Morley Googoo, National Portfolio Holder for Indigenous Languages</li> <li>- Alan Corbiere, Anishinaabemowin Revival Program Coordinator, Lakeview School, M'Chigeeng First Nation</li> <li>- Donna Lahache, Director of Education, Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education</li> <li>- Chief Ron Ignace, Skeetchestn Indian Band, BC</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
<b>MAIN PLENARY</b>	
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>REMARKS: Dawn Lavell-Harvard, President, Native Women’s Association of Canada</b></p> <p><b>RESOLUTIONS / DECISION MAKING</b></p> <p><b>LATE RESOLUTIONS</b></p>
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>ADDRESS TO THE CHIEFS Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett</b></p> <p><b>CLOSING REMARKS National Chief Perry Bellegarde</b></p> <p><b>CLOSING CEREMONIES</b></p>
<p><i>AFN Winter Celebration</i> <i>Hotel Lac-Leamy</i></p>	

